

TRIPURA

The asuras rejoiced as they played havoc with both men and gods. Maya, their gifted architect, had created for them three cities fortified with iron, silver and gold, and the great lord Brahma himself had decreed that these cities would be indestructible, unless struck by a single arrow. The three cities, known together as Tripura, orbited the earth, and only once in a thousand years fell in a straight line, directly one above the other. Would Shiva be waiting to destroy them with a twang of his deadly bow?

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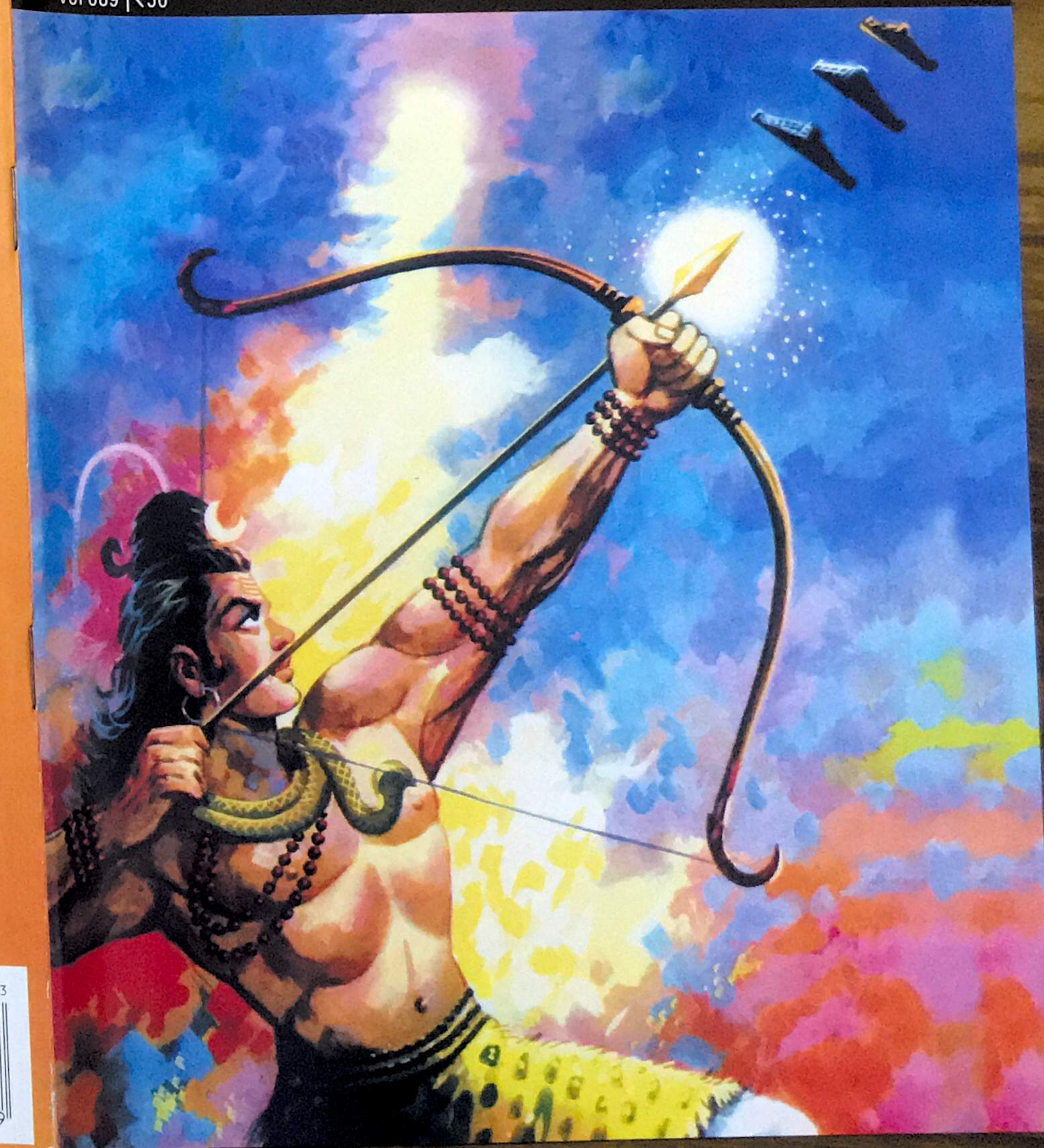
EPICS &
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TRIPURA

THE THREE IMPREGNABLE CITIES OF MAYA

Vol 689 | ₹50

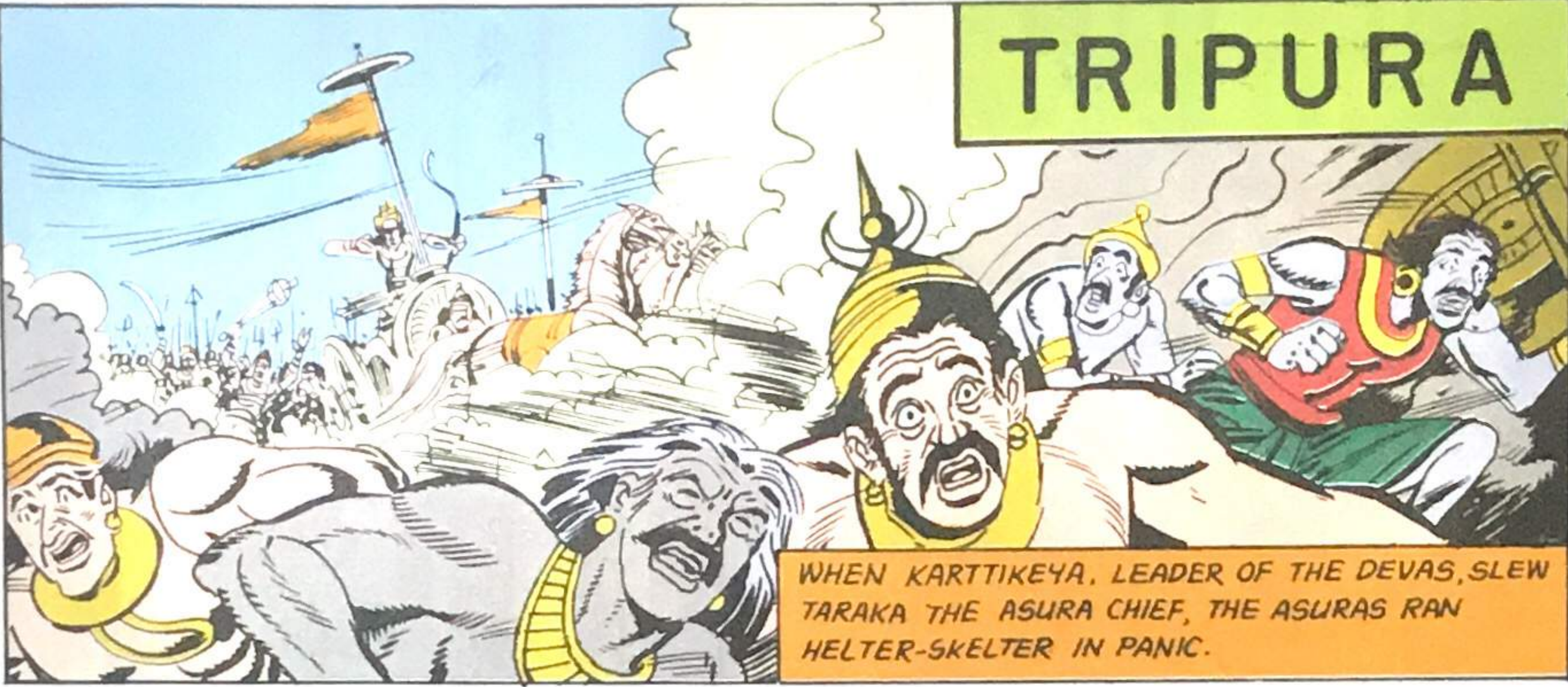


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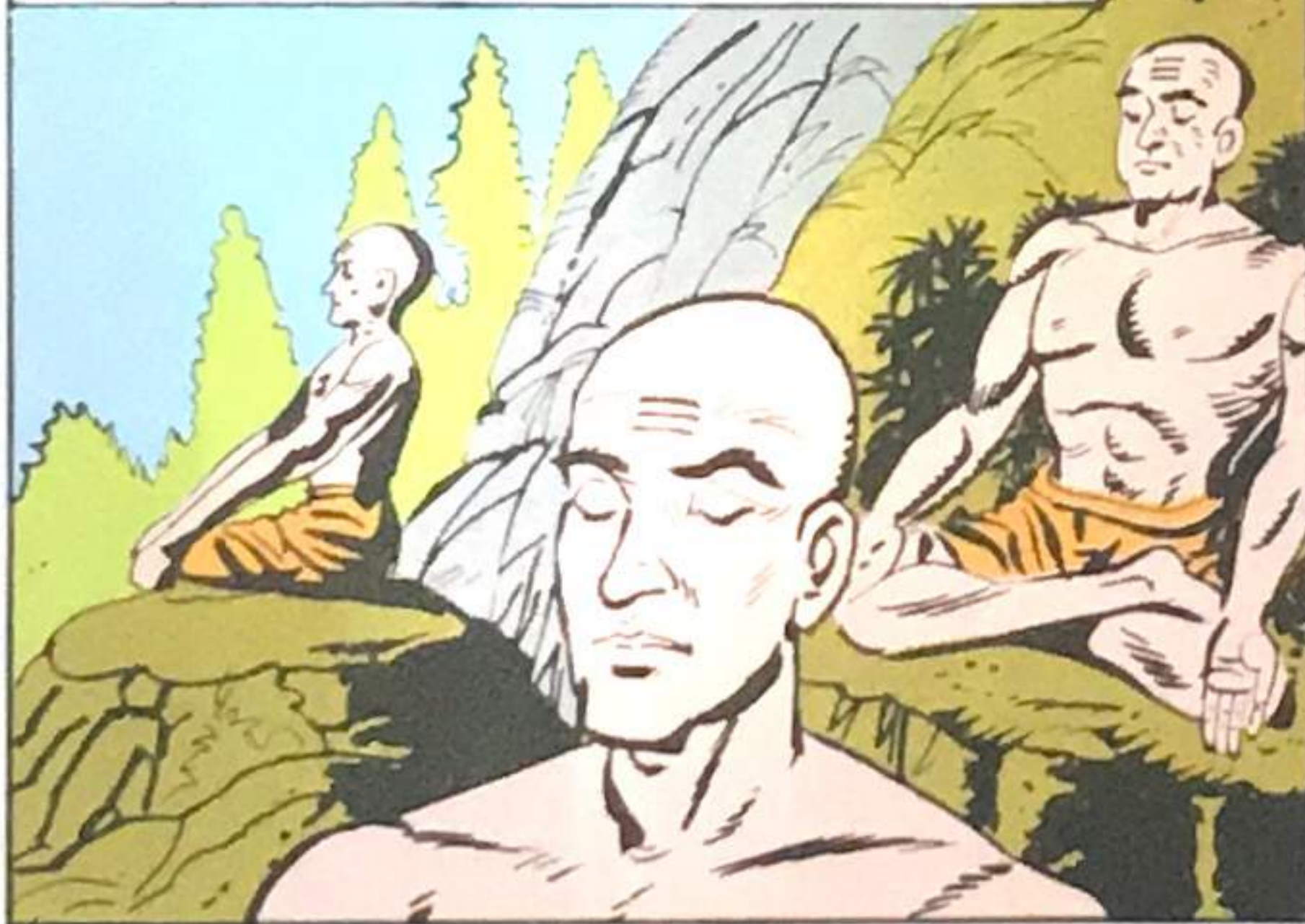
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TRIPURA

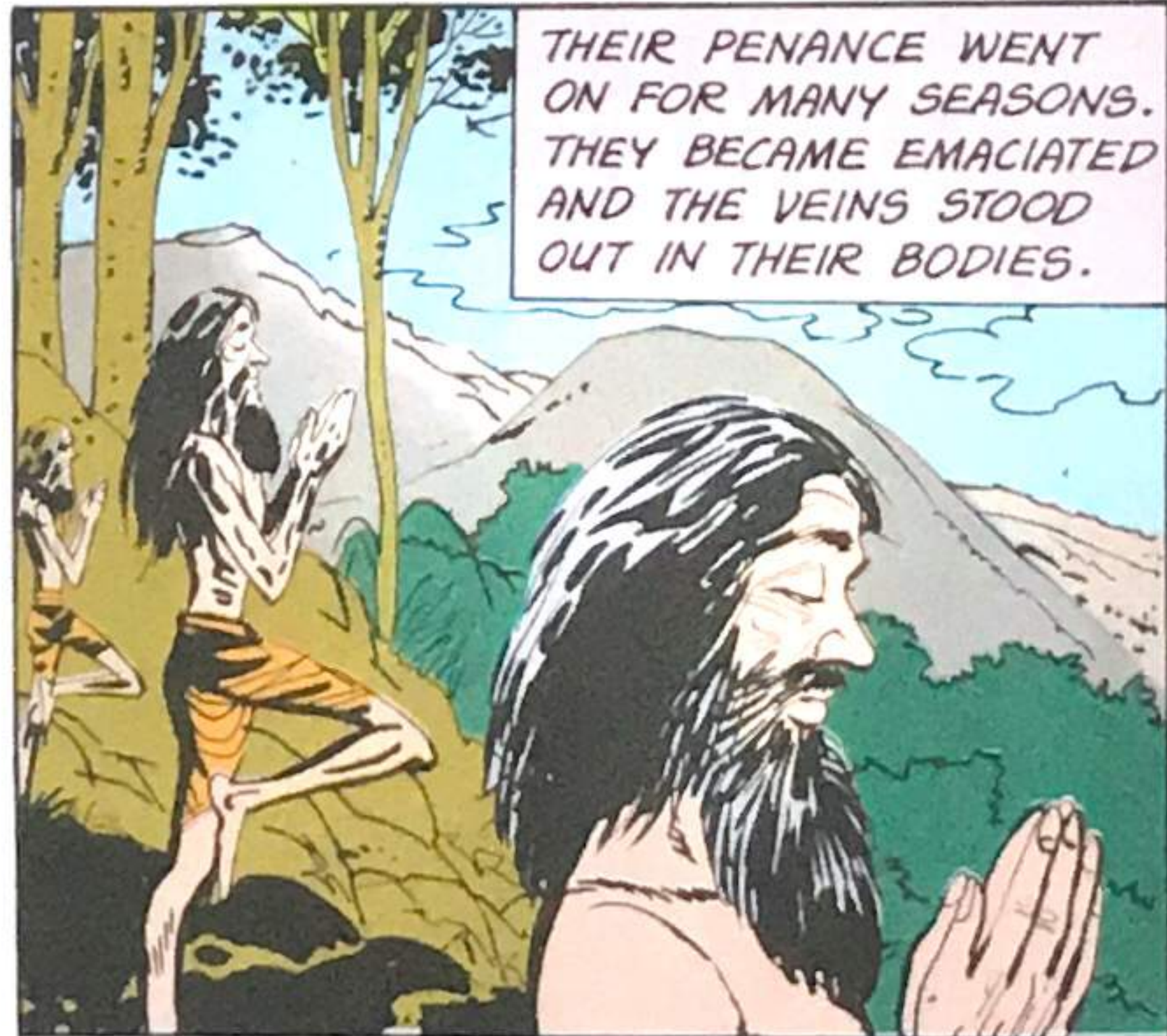


WHEN KARTTIKEYA, LEADER OF THE DEVAS, SLEW TARAKA THE ASURA CHIEF, THE ASURAS RAN HELTER-SKELTER IN PANIC.

LATER TARAKASURA'S SONS, TARAKAKSHA, VIDYUNMALI AND KAMALAKSHA BEGAN TO PRACTISE AUSTERITIES.

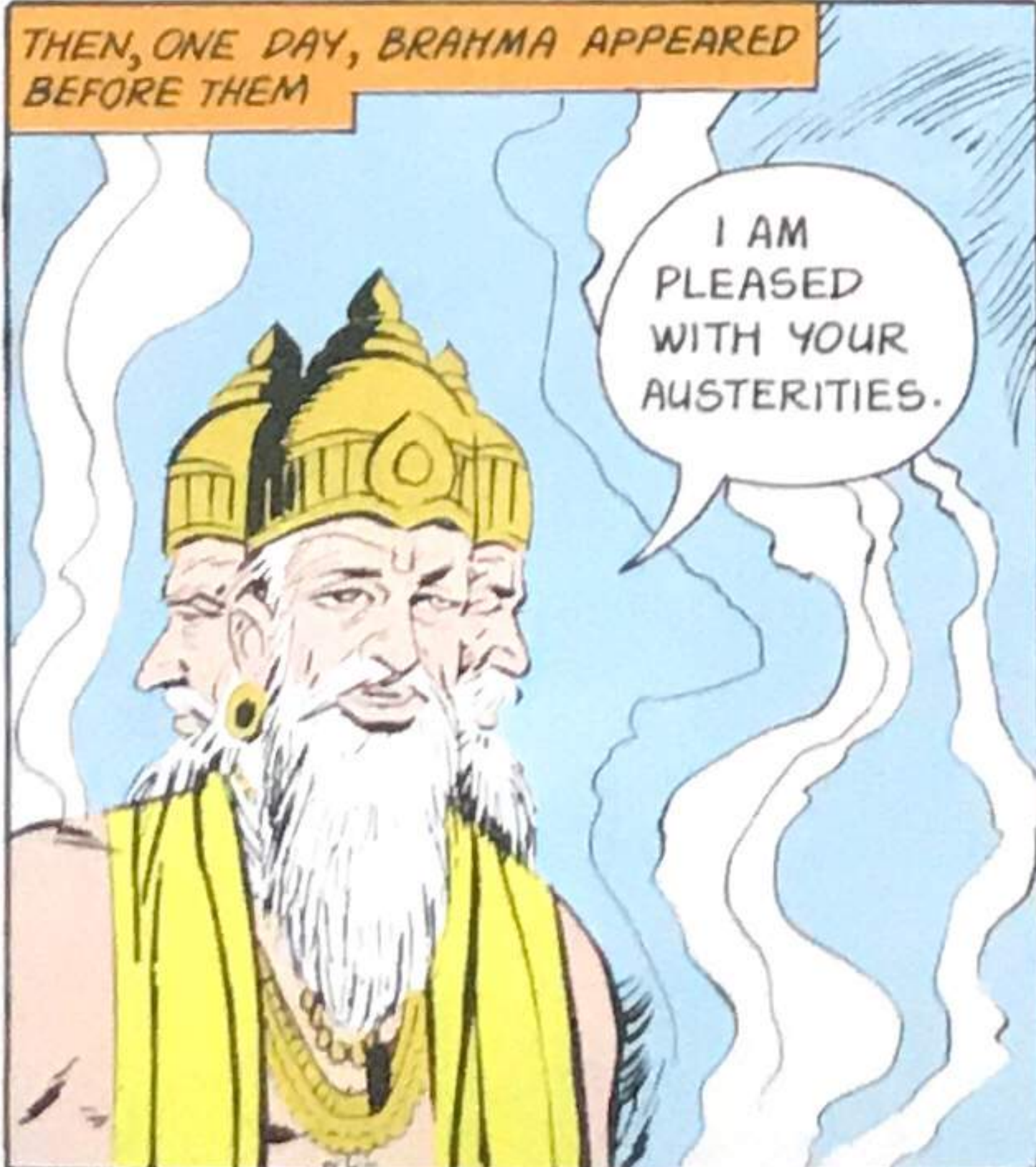


THEIR PENANCE WENT ON FOR MANY SEASONS. THEY BECAME EMACIATED AND THE VEINS STOOD OUT IN THEIR BODIES.



THEN, ONE DAY, BRAHMA APPEARED BEFORE THEM

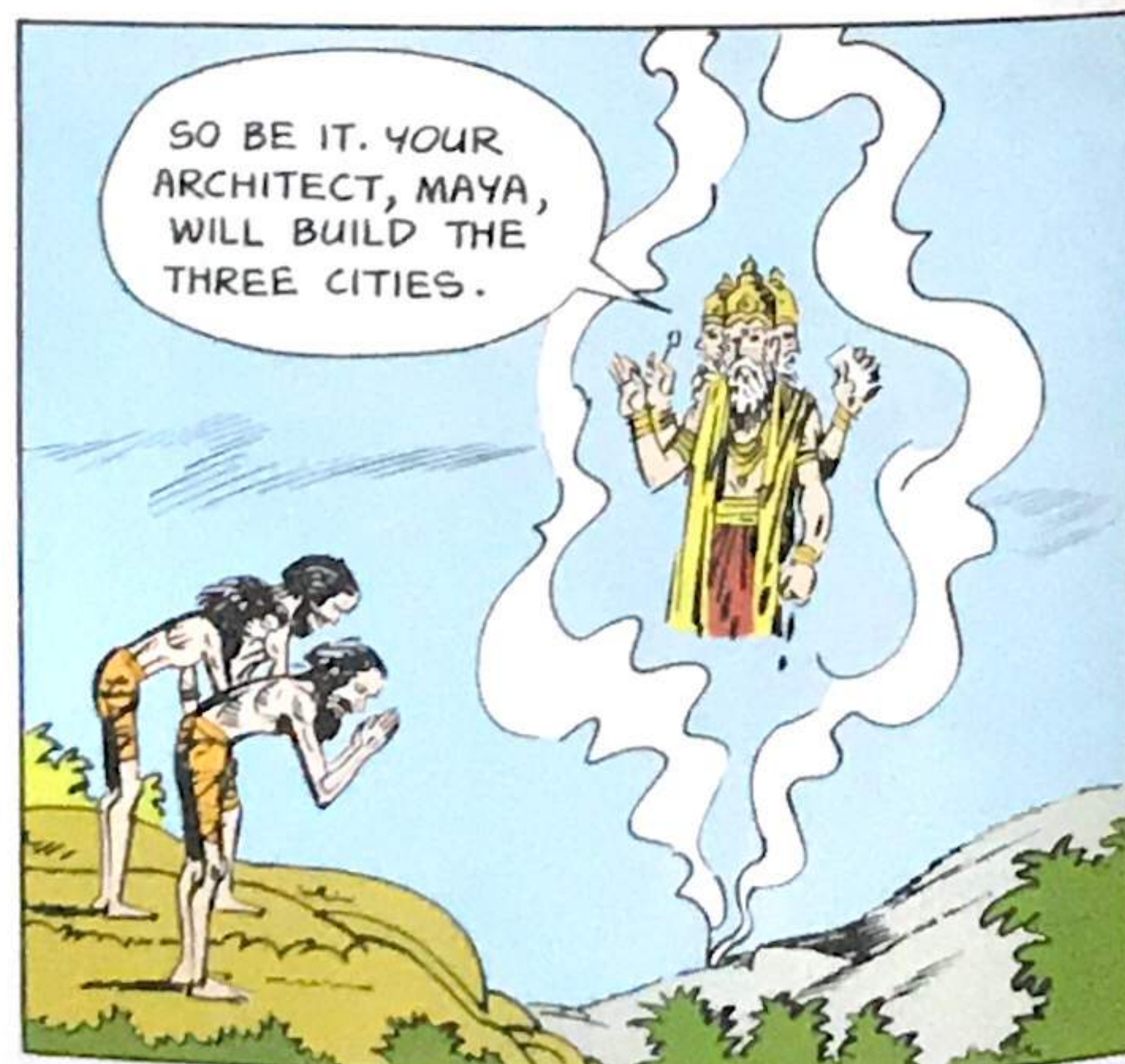
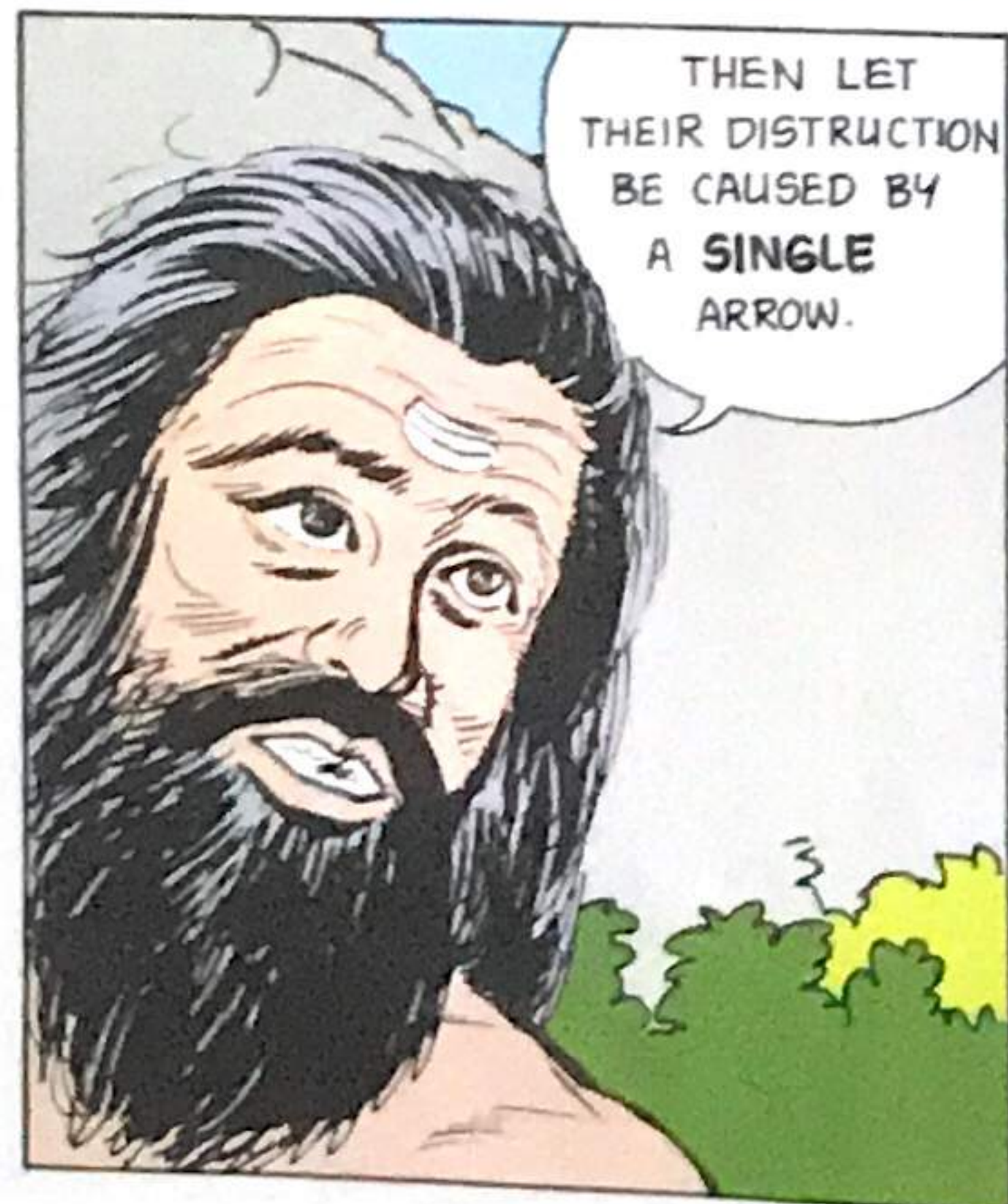
I AM PLEASED WITH YOUR AUSTERITIES.



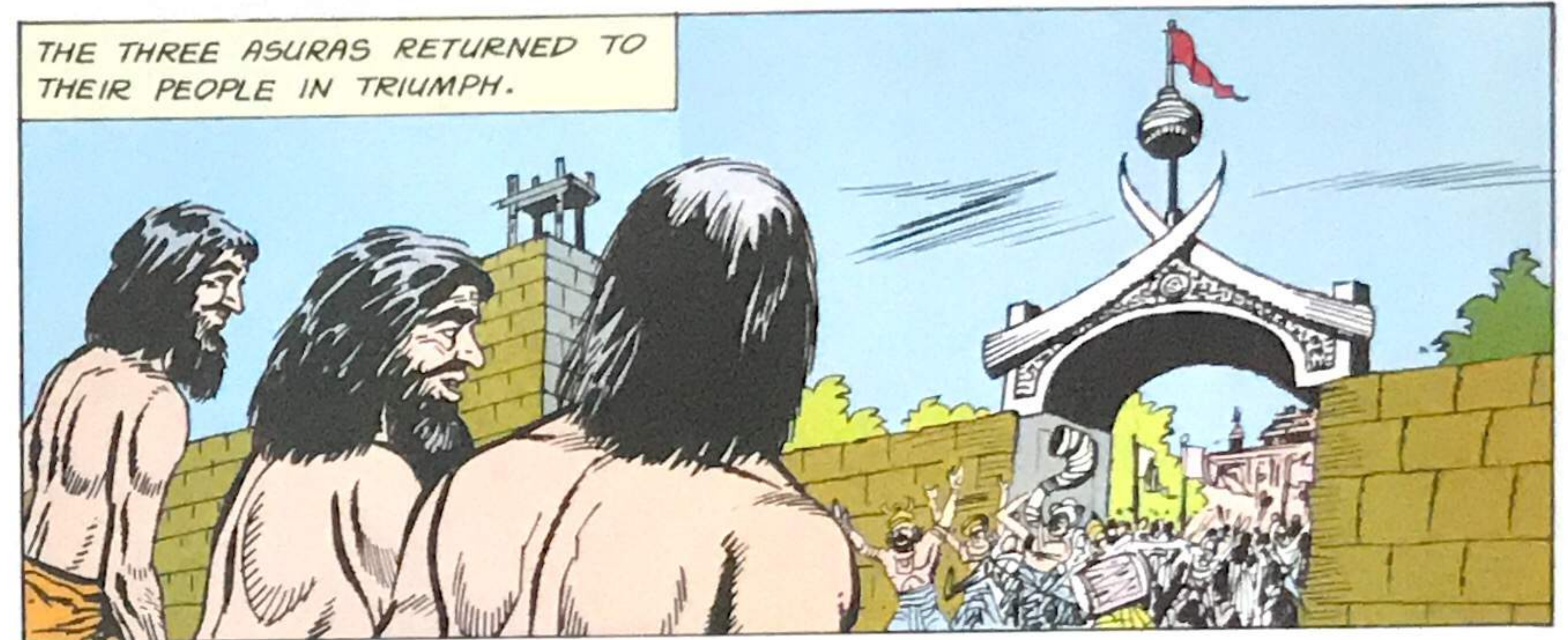
WHAT DO YOU DESIRE?

OUR MIGHTY FATHER IS DEAD.





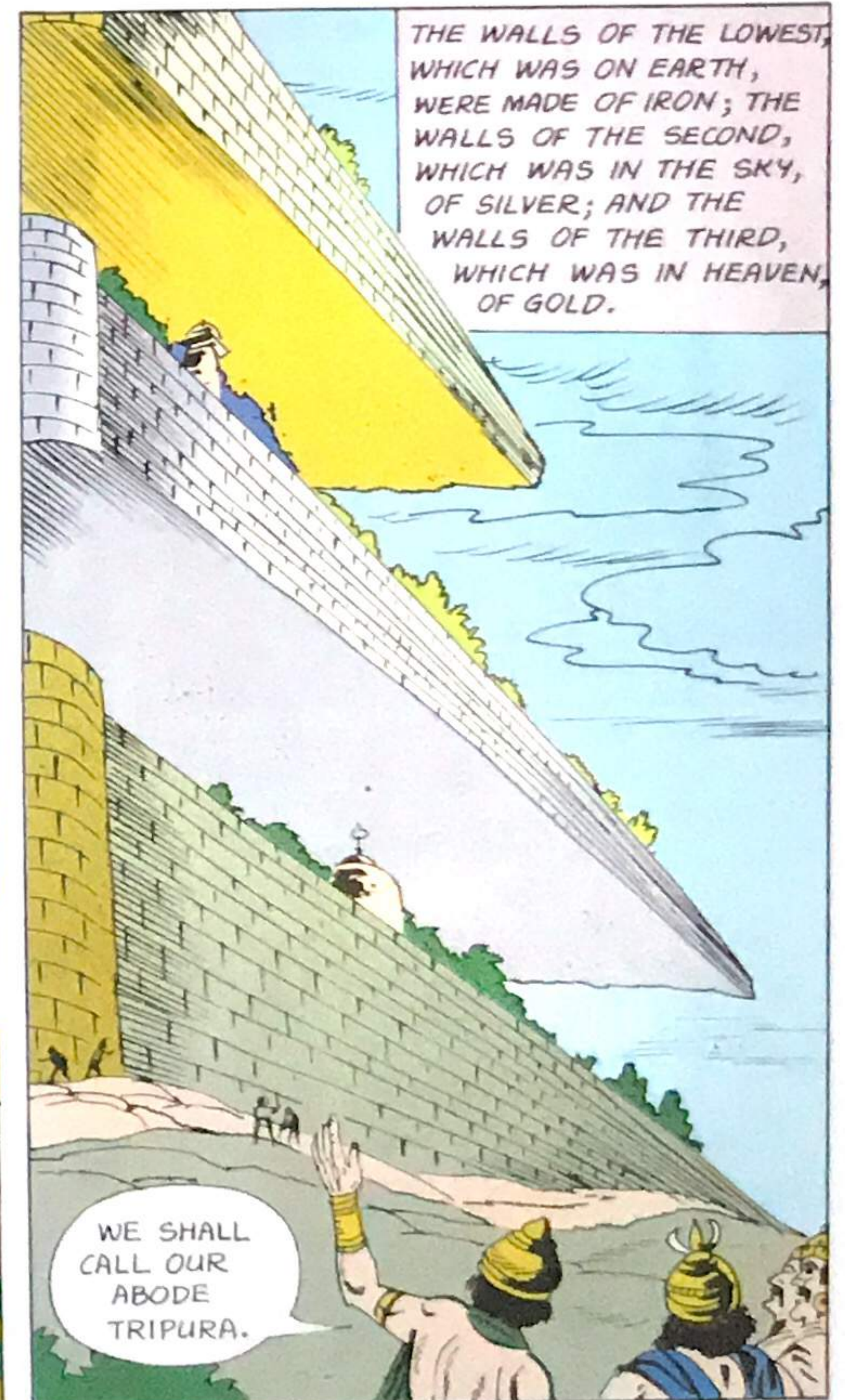
THE THREE ASURAS RETURNED TO THEIR PEOPLE IN TRIUMPH.

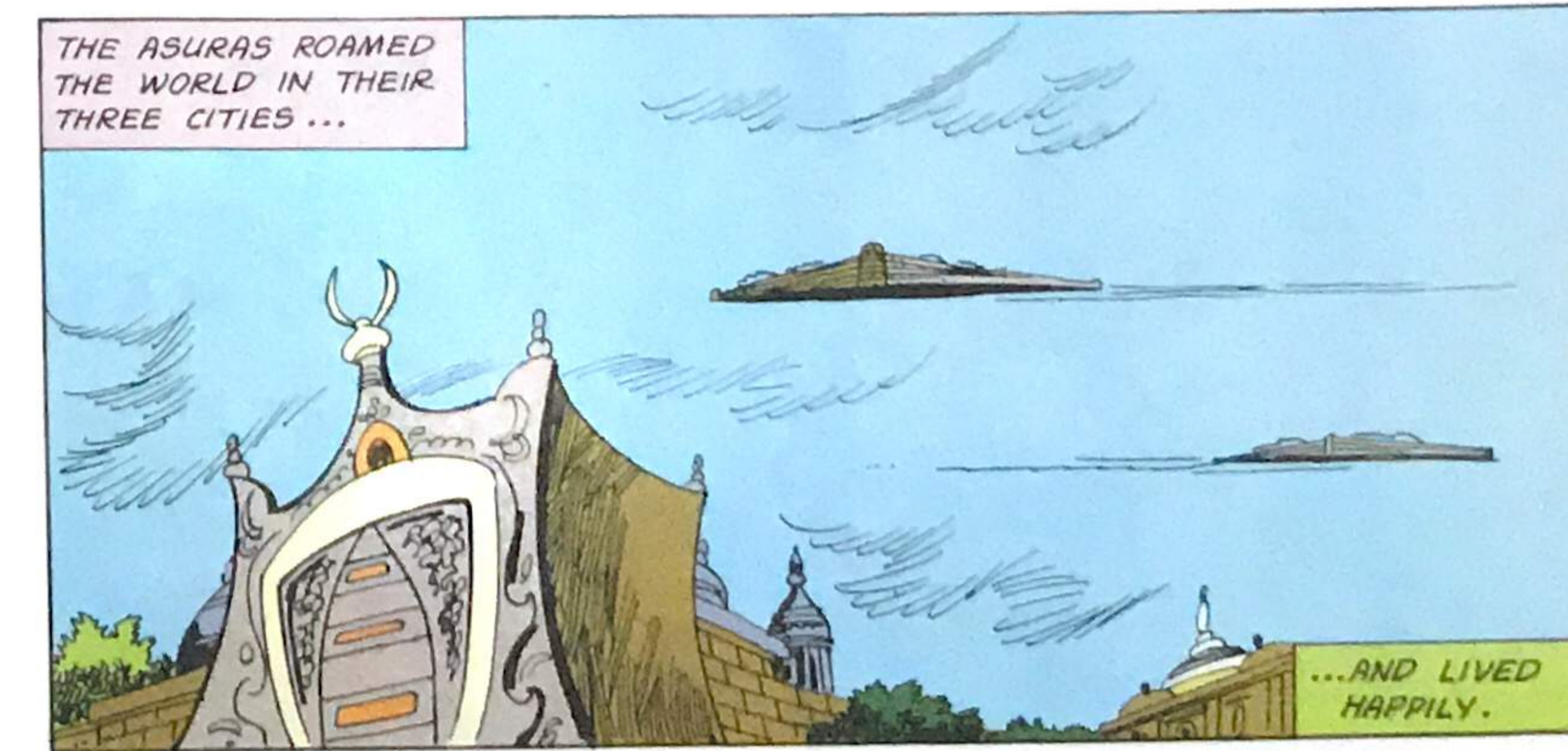
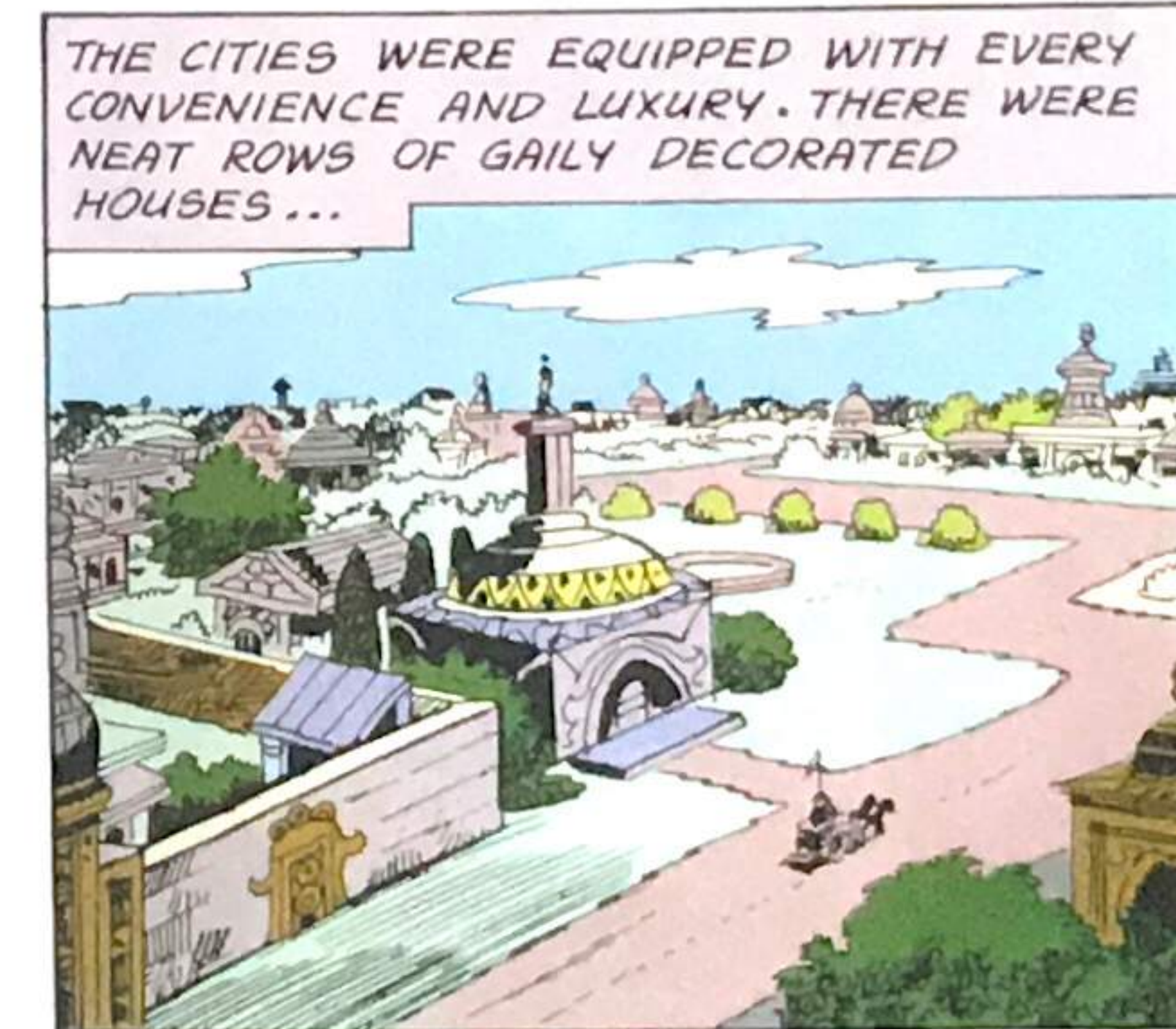
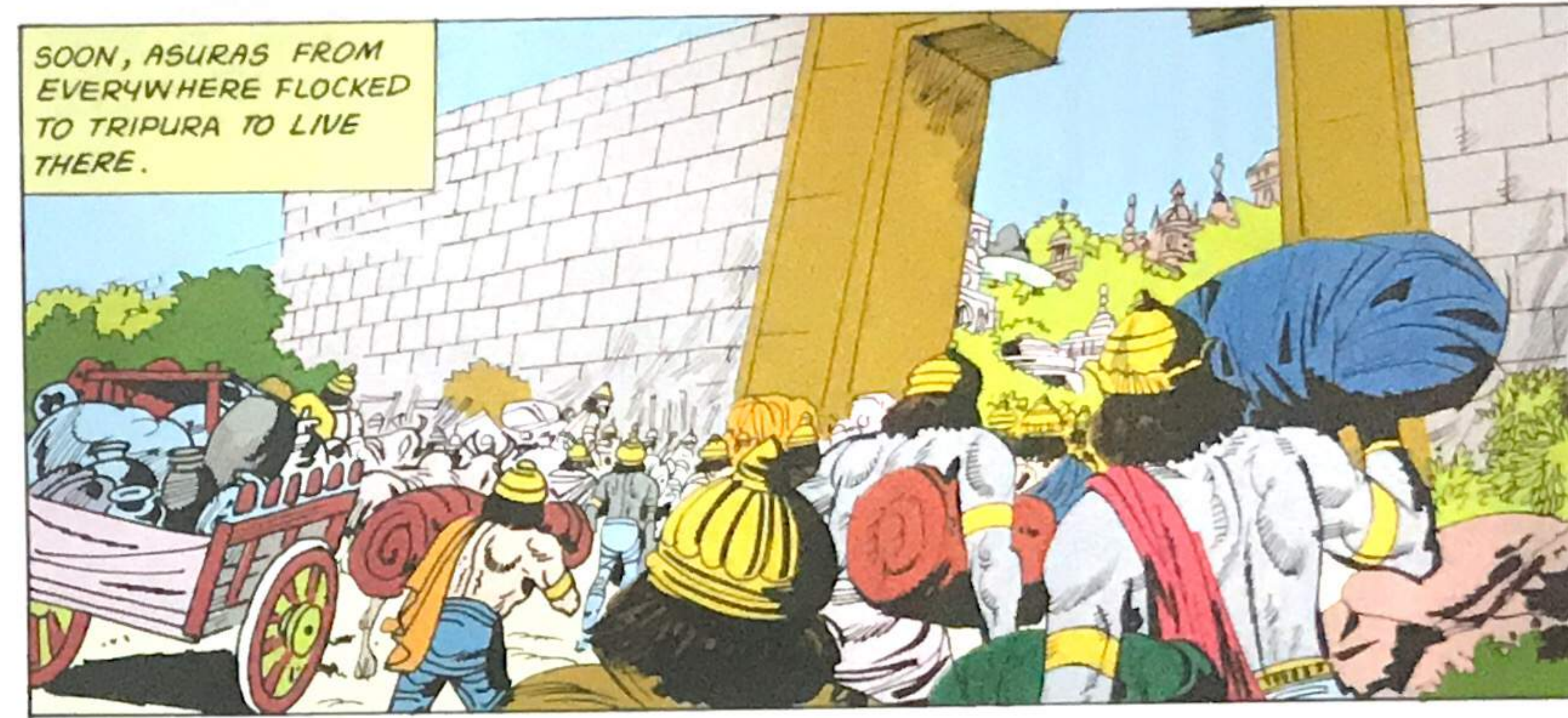
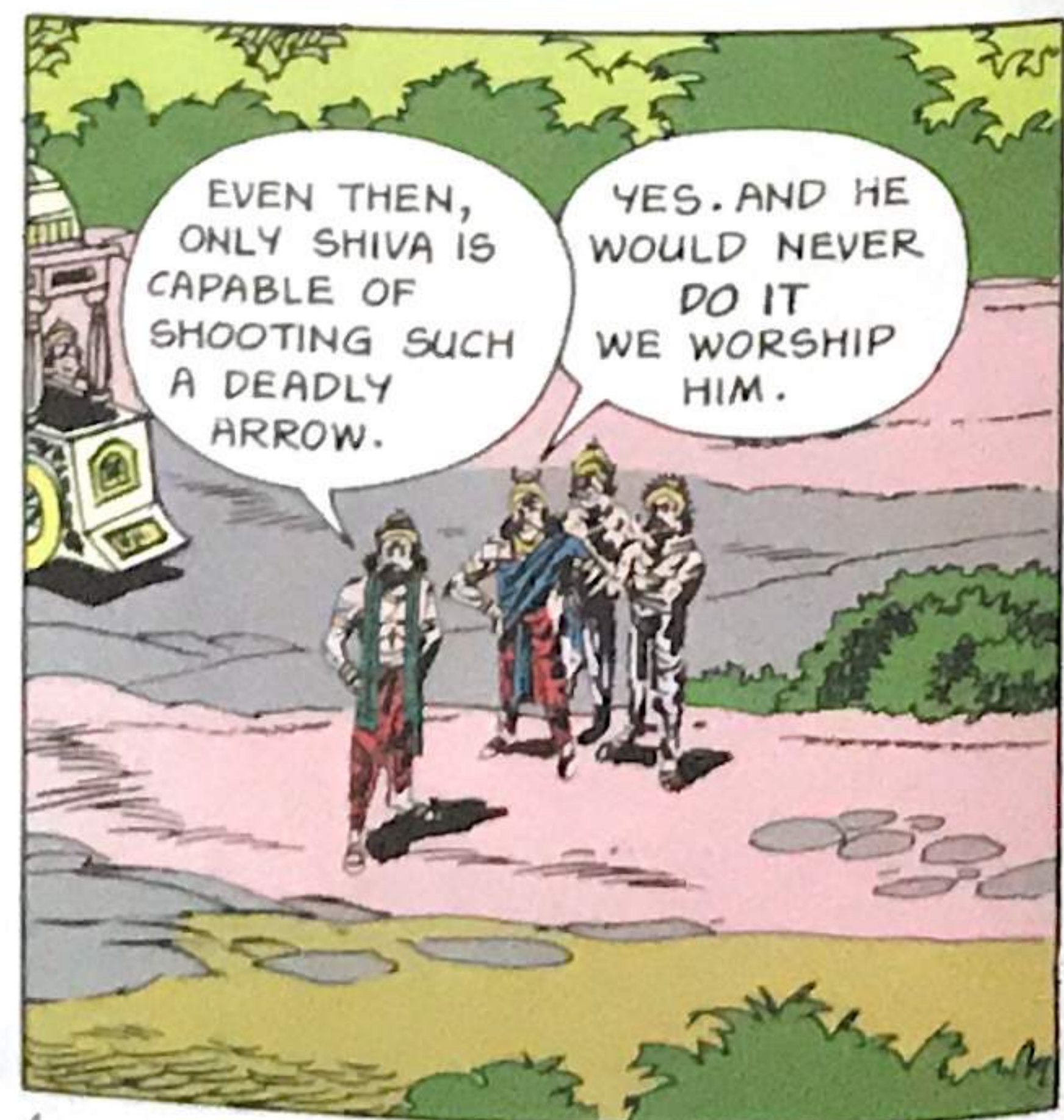
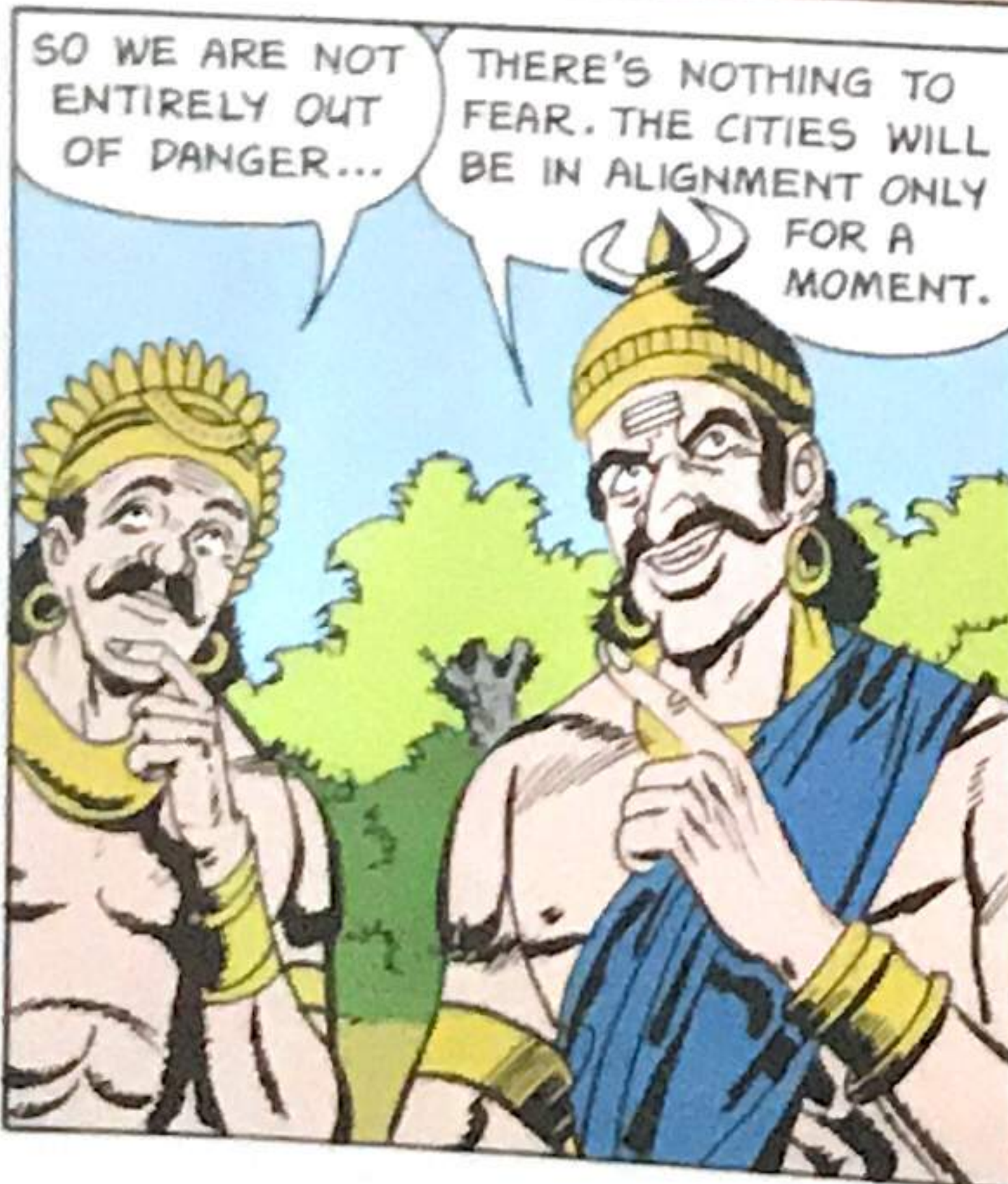
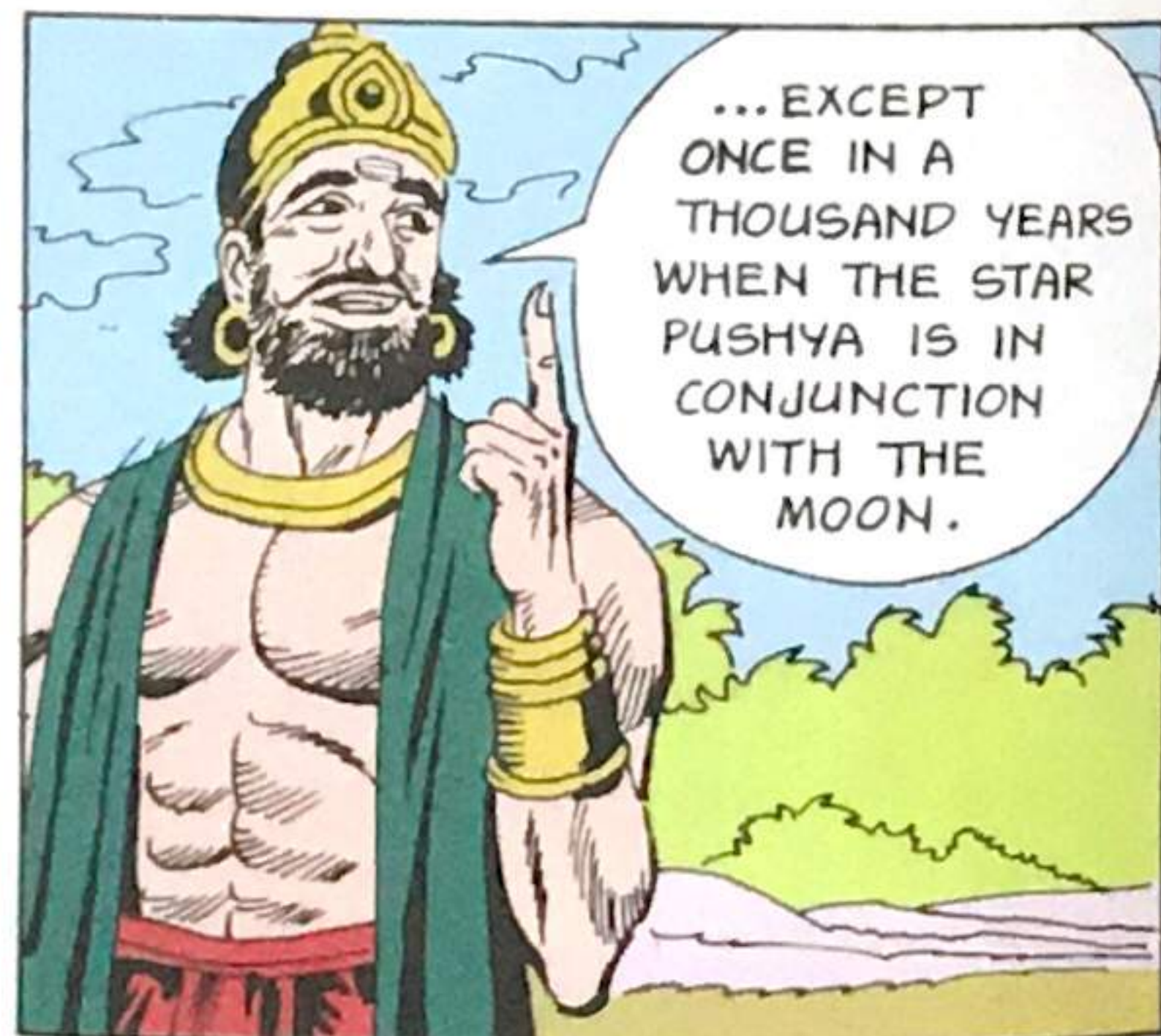
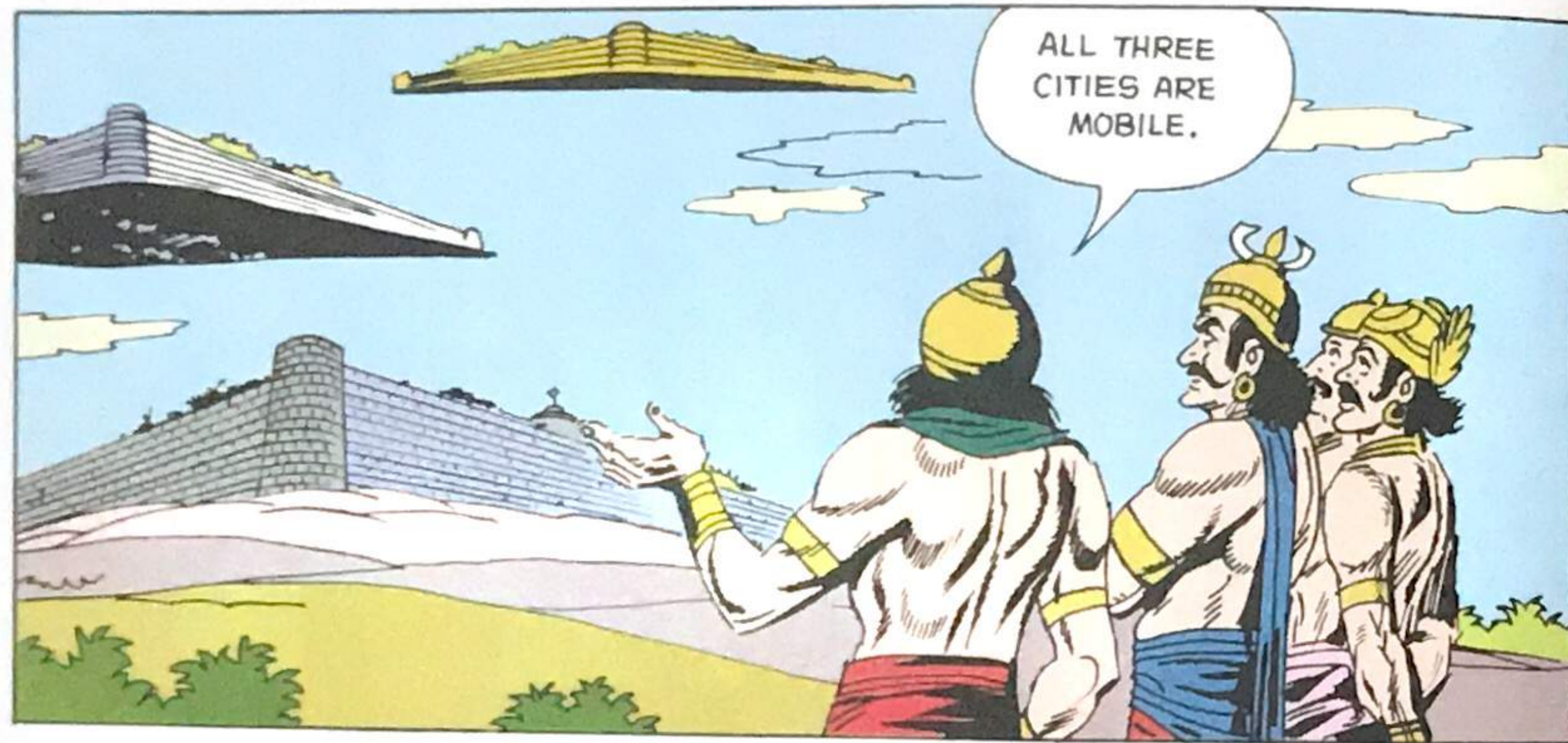


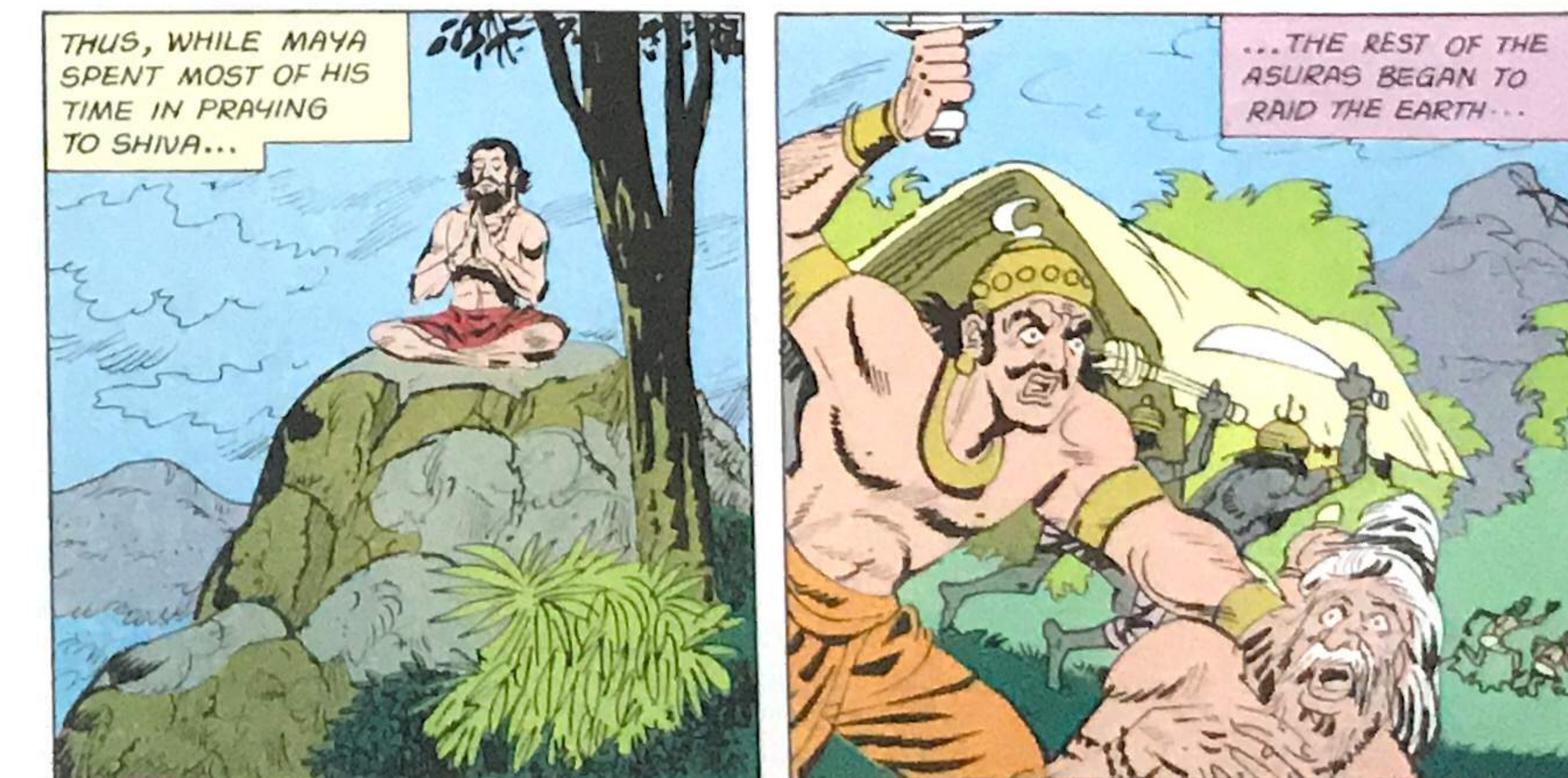
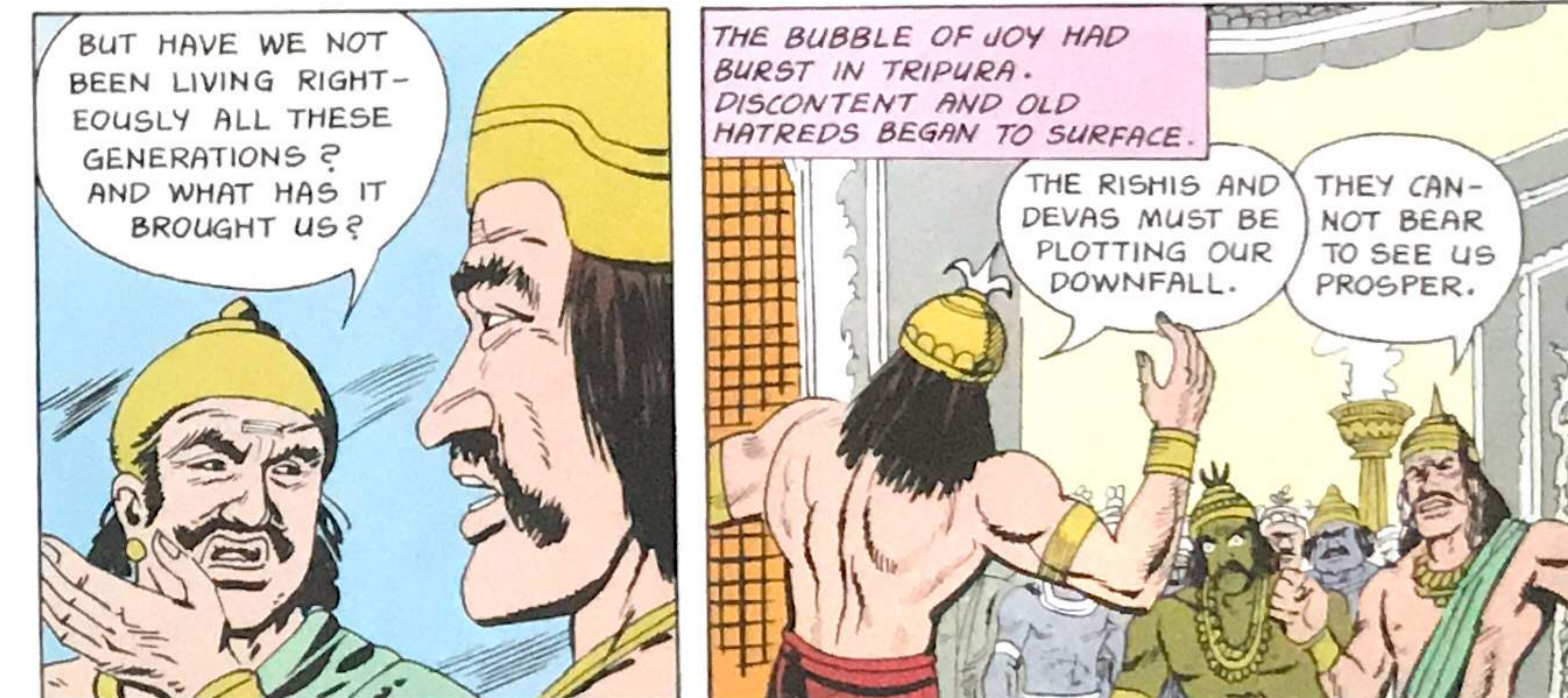
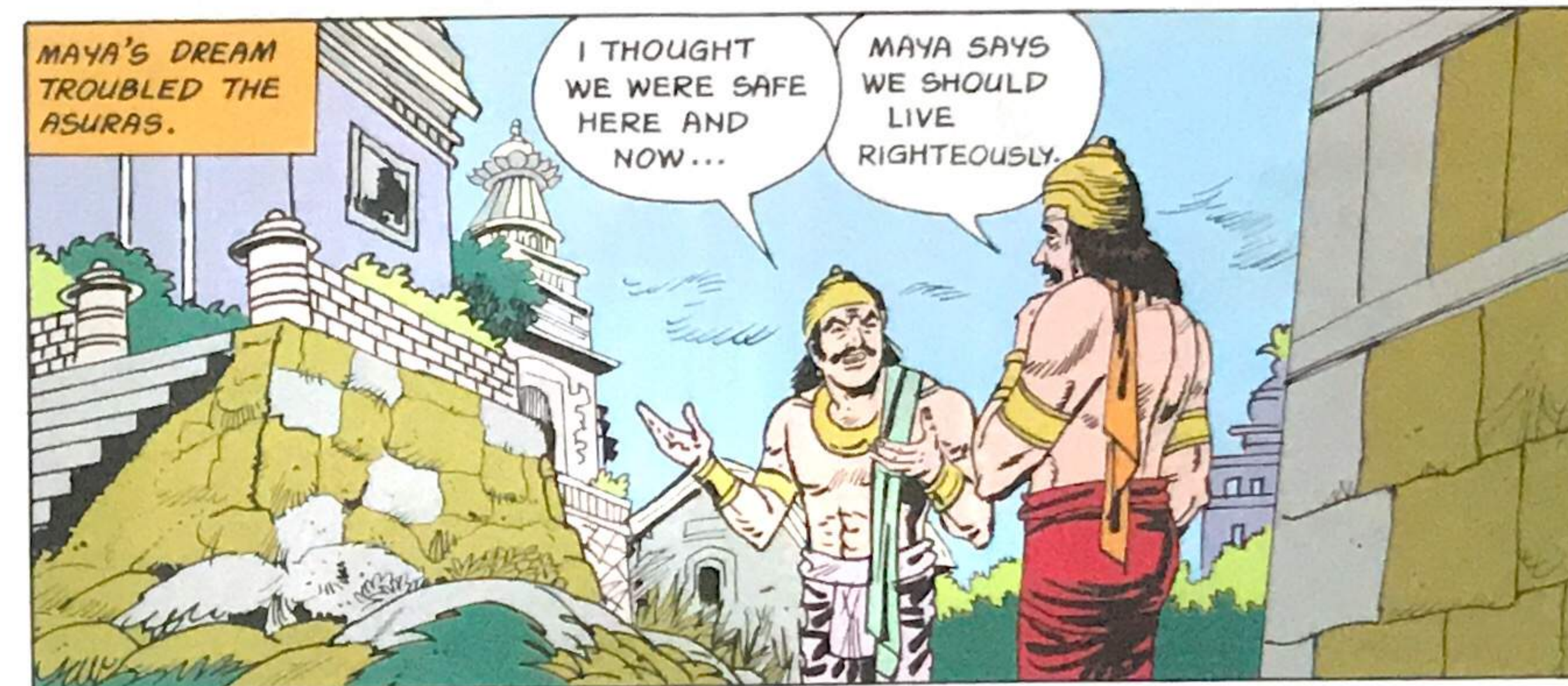
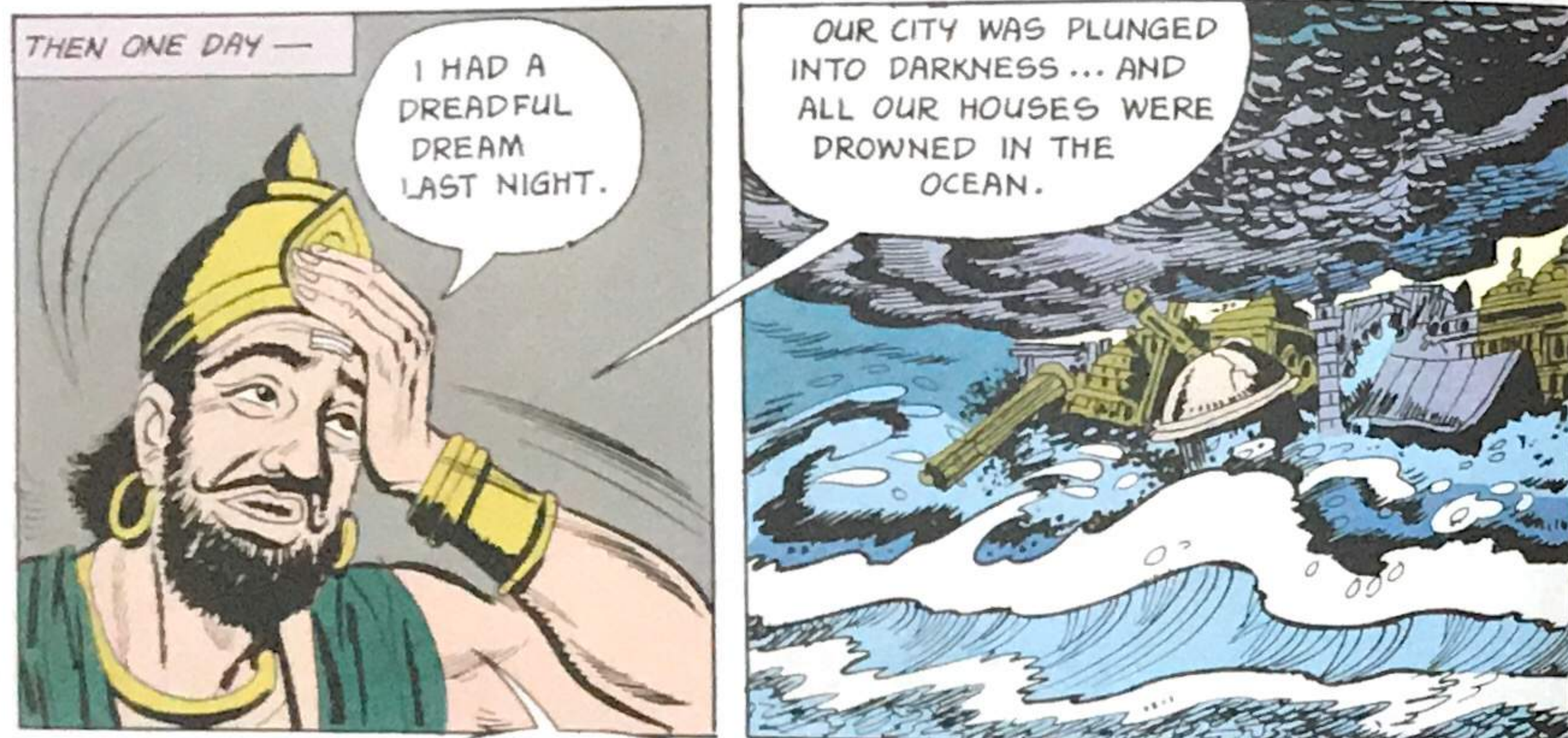
AND MAYA, THE GREAT ARCHITECT, BEGAN TO BUILD THE THREE IMPREGNABLE CITIES.

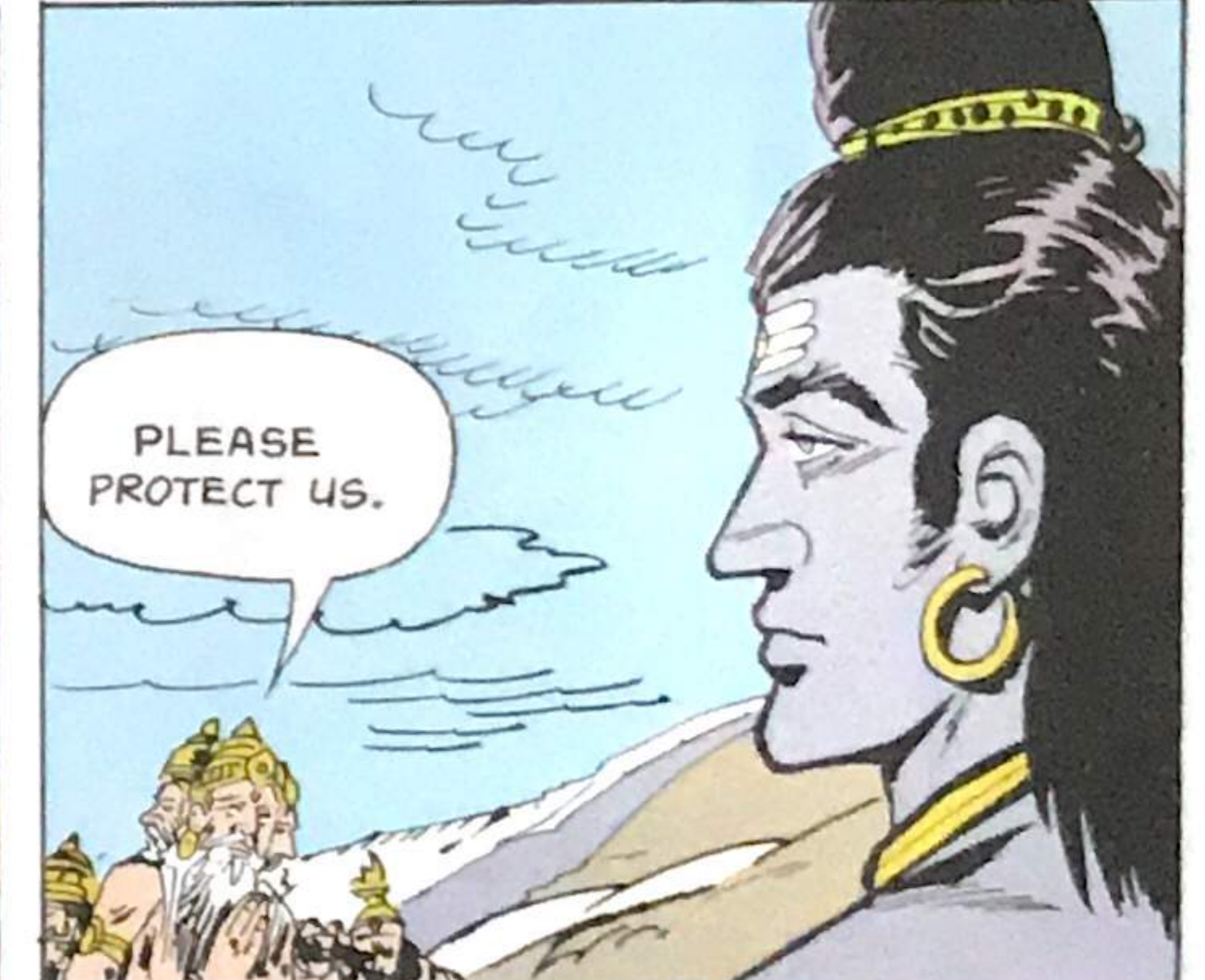
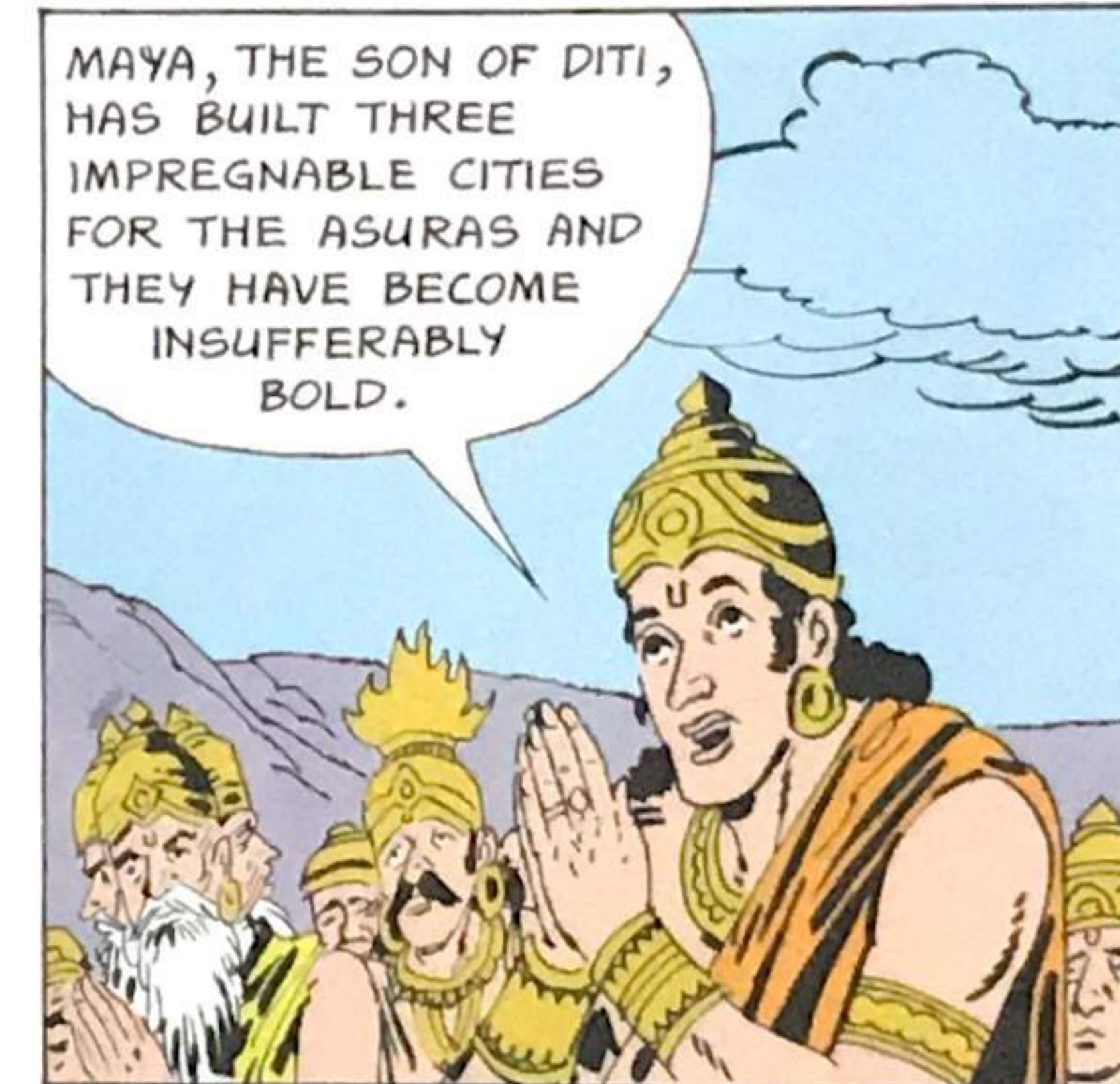
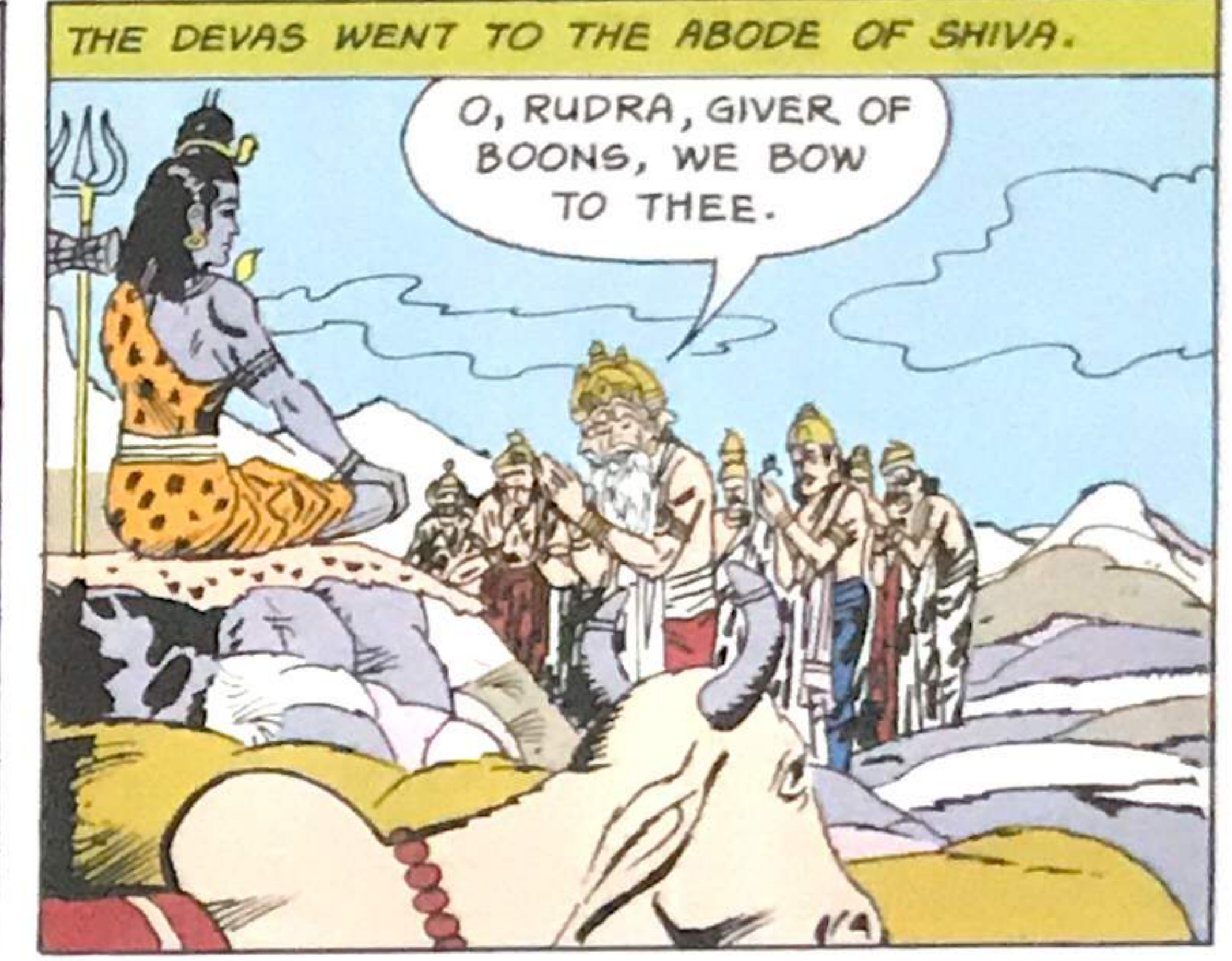
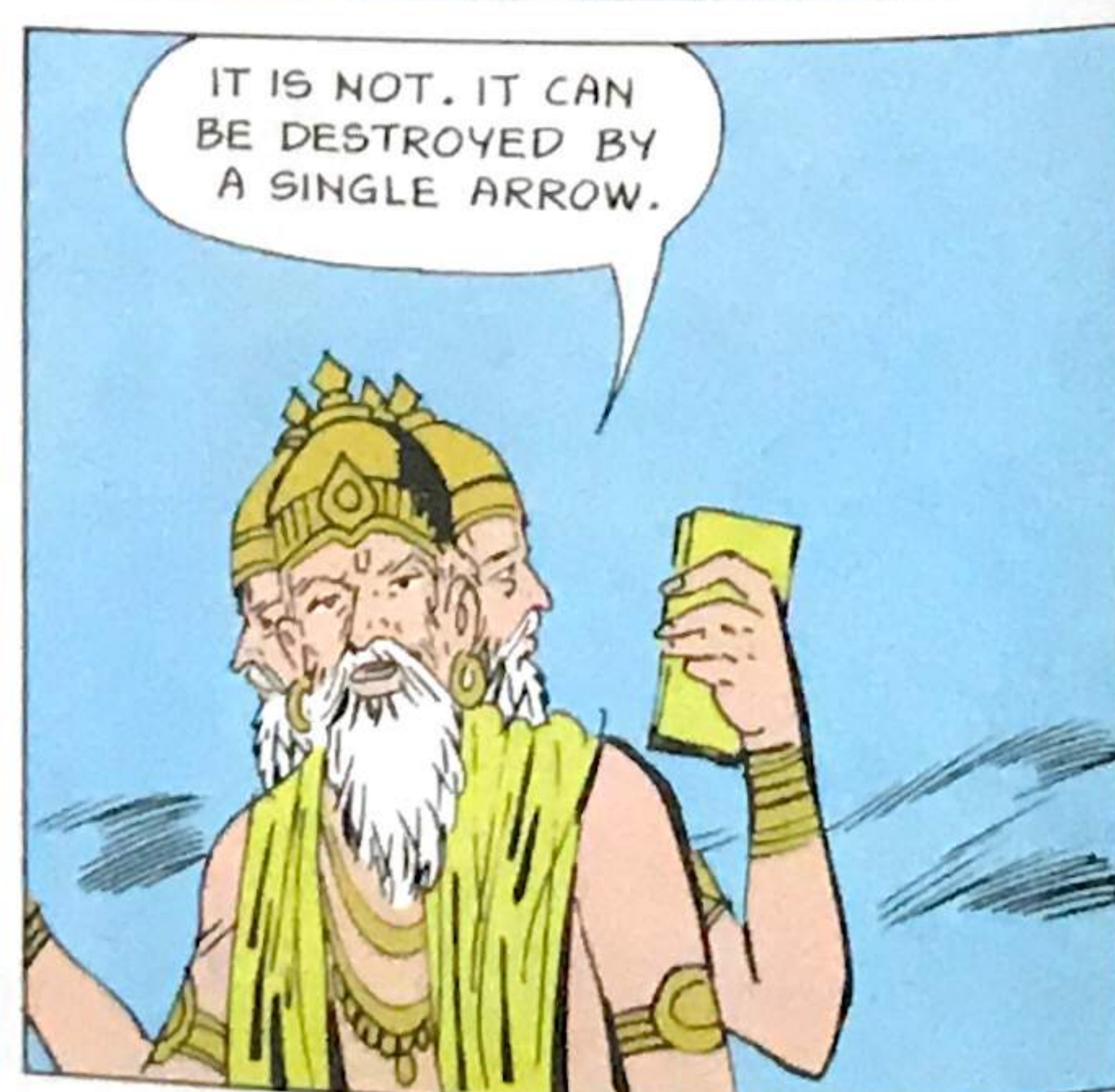
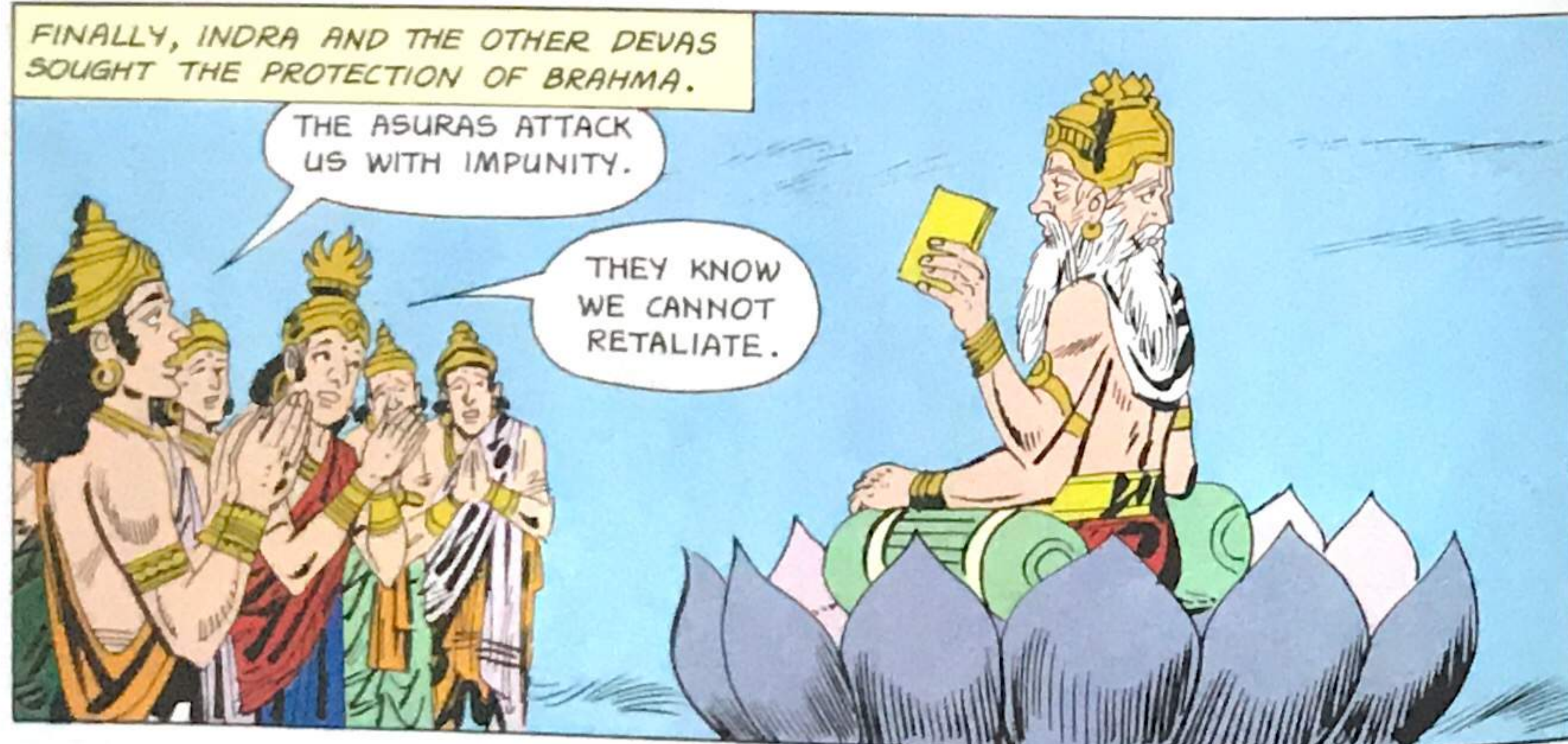
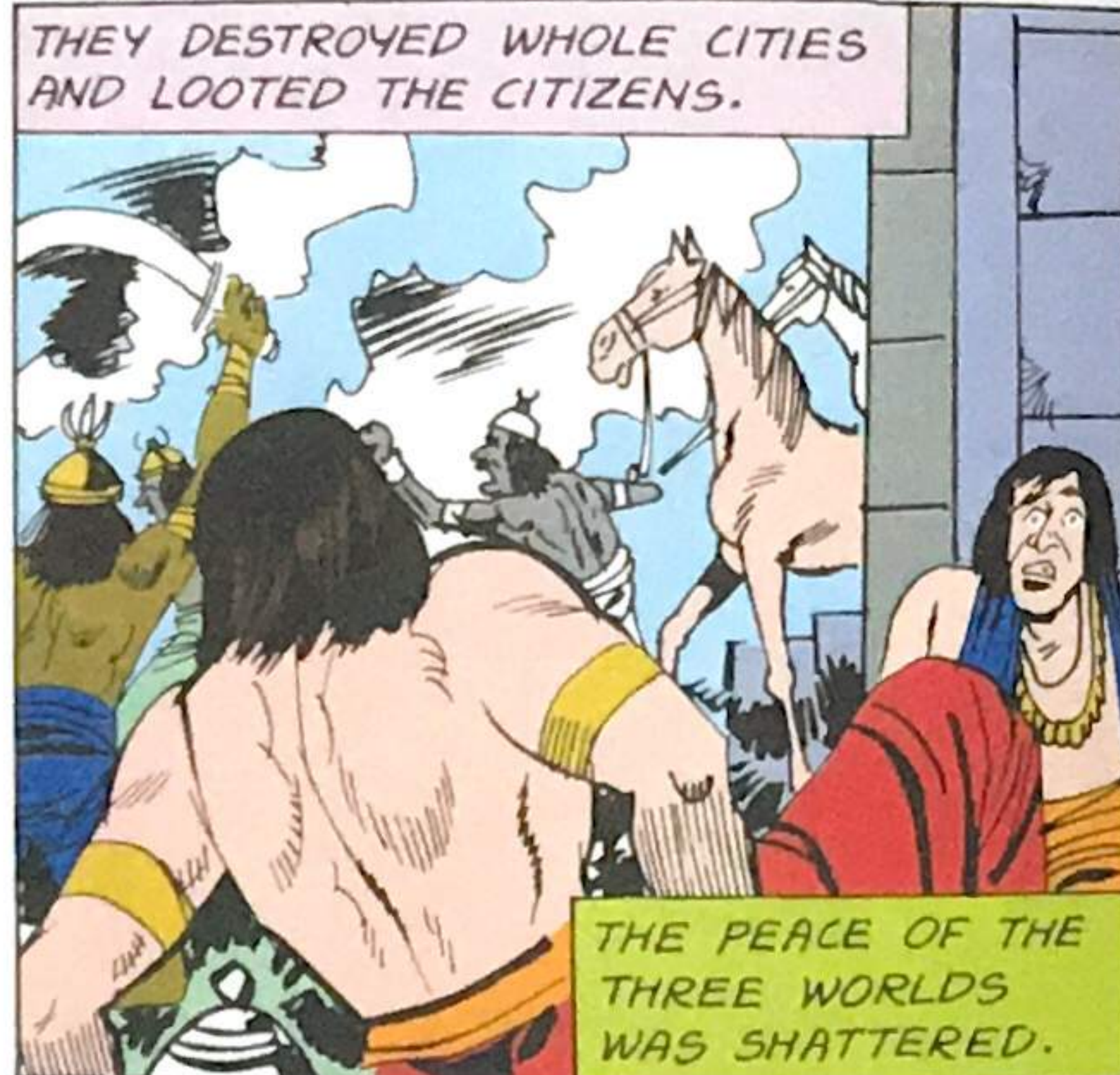
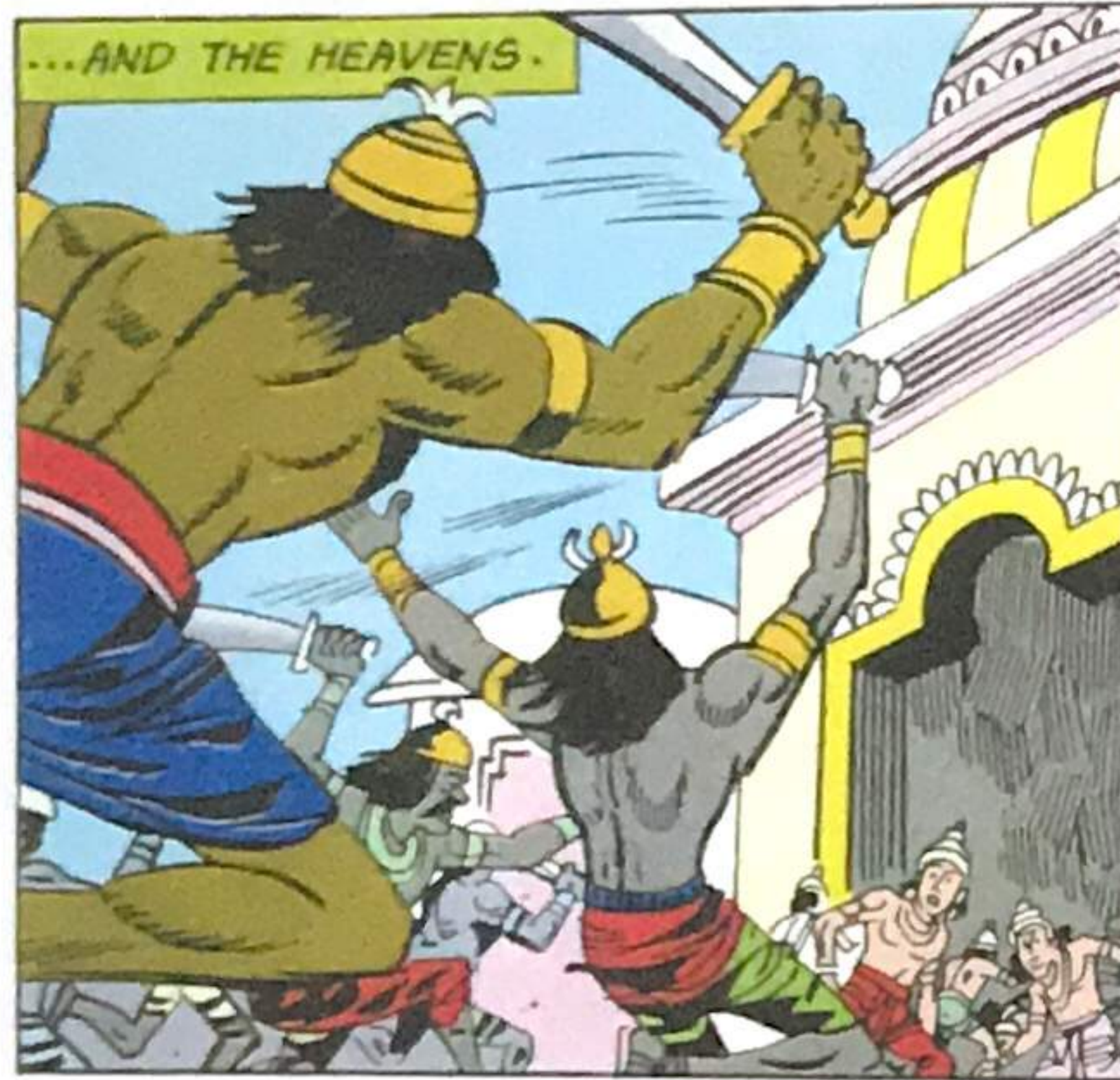


THE WALLS OF THE LOWEST, WHICH WAS ON EARTH, WERE MADE OF IRON; THE WALLS OF THE SECOND, WHICH WAS IN THE SKY, OF SILVER; AND THE WALLS OF THE THIRD, WHICH WAS IN HEAVEN, OF GOLD.

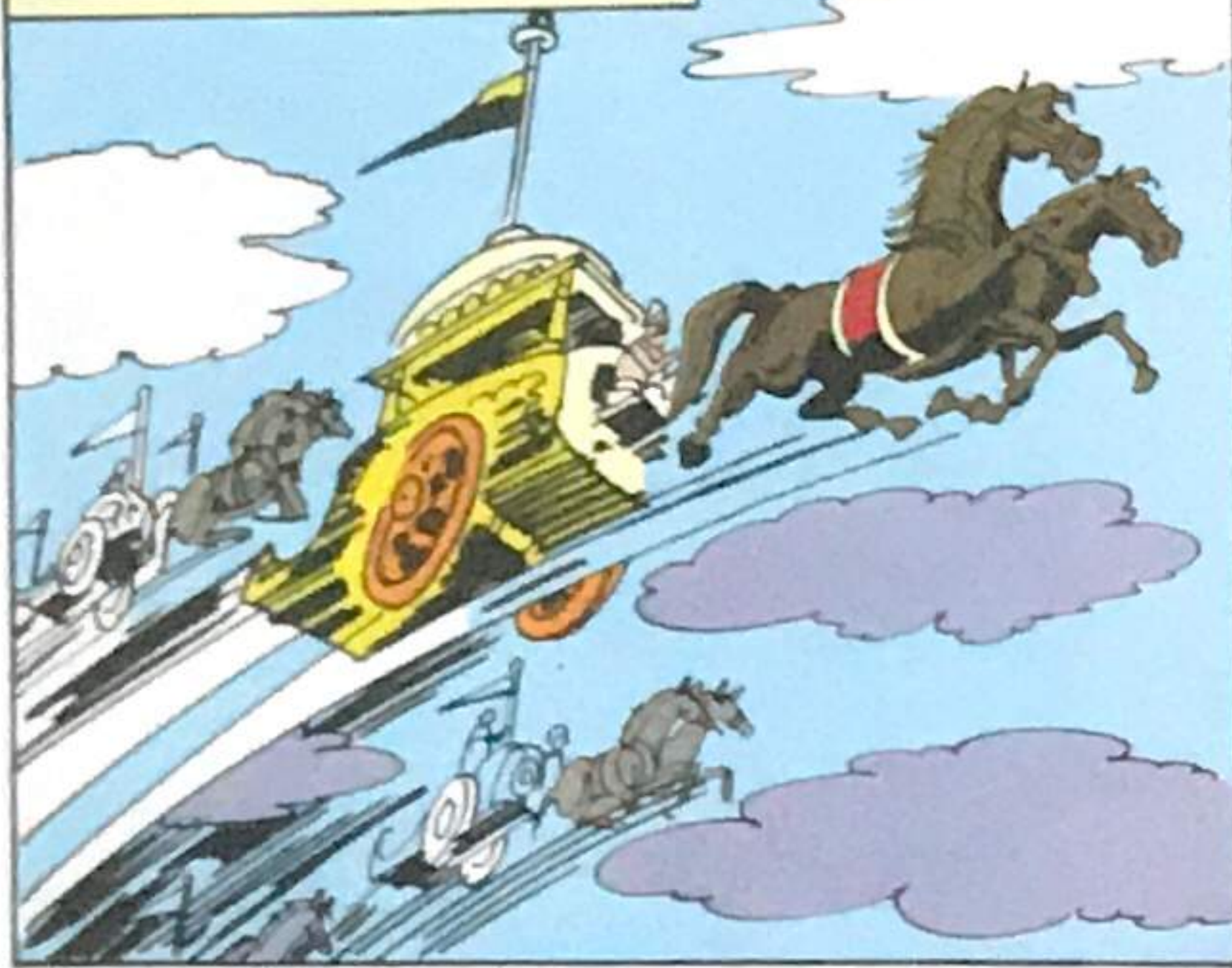








ENCOURAGED BY SHIVA'S ASSURANCE
INDRA AND HIS ARMY OF DEVAS
SET OUT FOR TRIPURA.



AS THE ARMY ADVANCED, TARAKAKSHA
LED HIS ASURAS OUT OF THE CITY OF
GOLD...



...AND ATTACKED
INDRA'S ARMY.



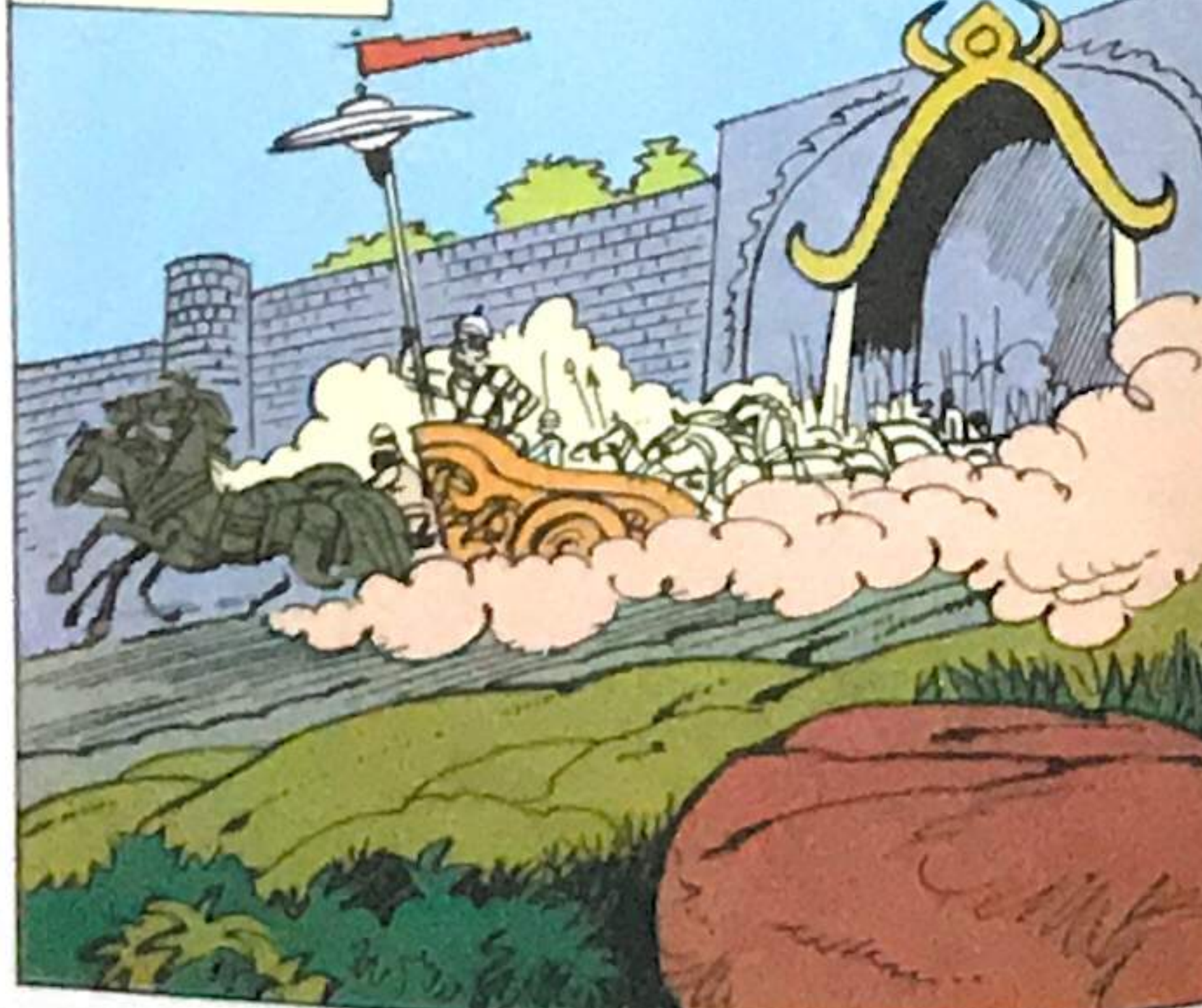
A FIERCE BATTLE
ENSUED.

ON ANOTHER FRONT NANDI, SHIVA'S
TRUSTED LIEUTENANT, LED THE
GANAS *...



* SHIVA'S HORDES

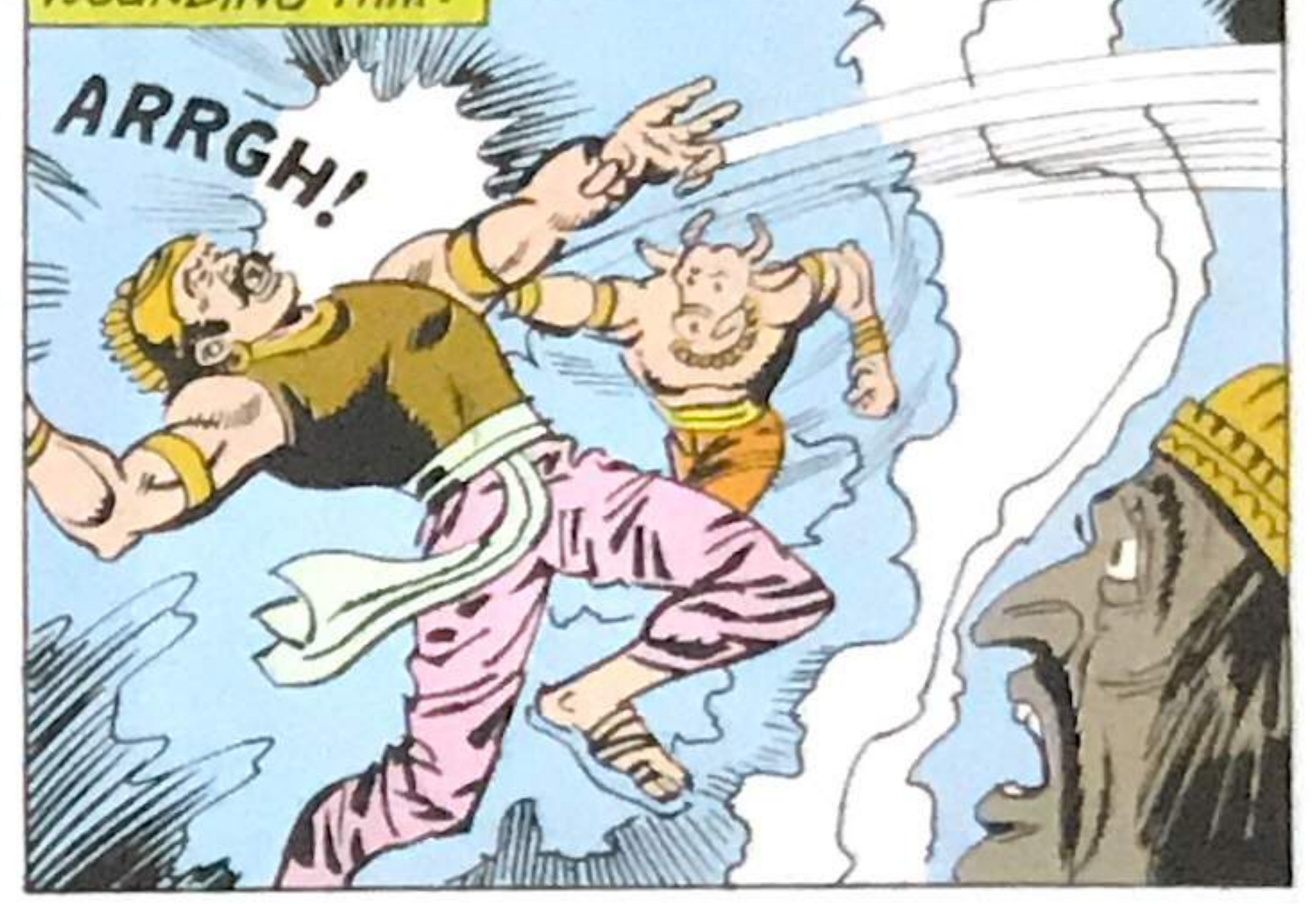
...AGAINST THE ASURAS LED BY
VIDYUNMALI.



THE ASURA LEADER
STRUCK NANDI A
FEARFUL BLOW.



BUT THE BULL RECOVERED,
AND FLUNG A BOLT AT
VIDYUNMALI, MORTALLY
WOUNDING HIM.



THE BATTLE IS
TURNING AGAINST
US.



MAYA DREW ON HIS GREAT
POWERS TO PRODUCE FIRE.



YET THE DEVAS KEPT COMING.



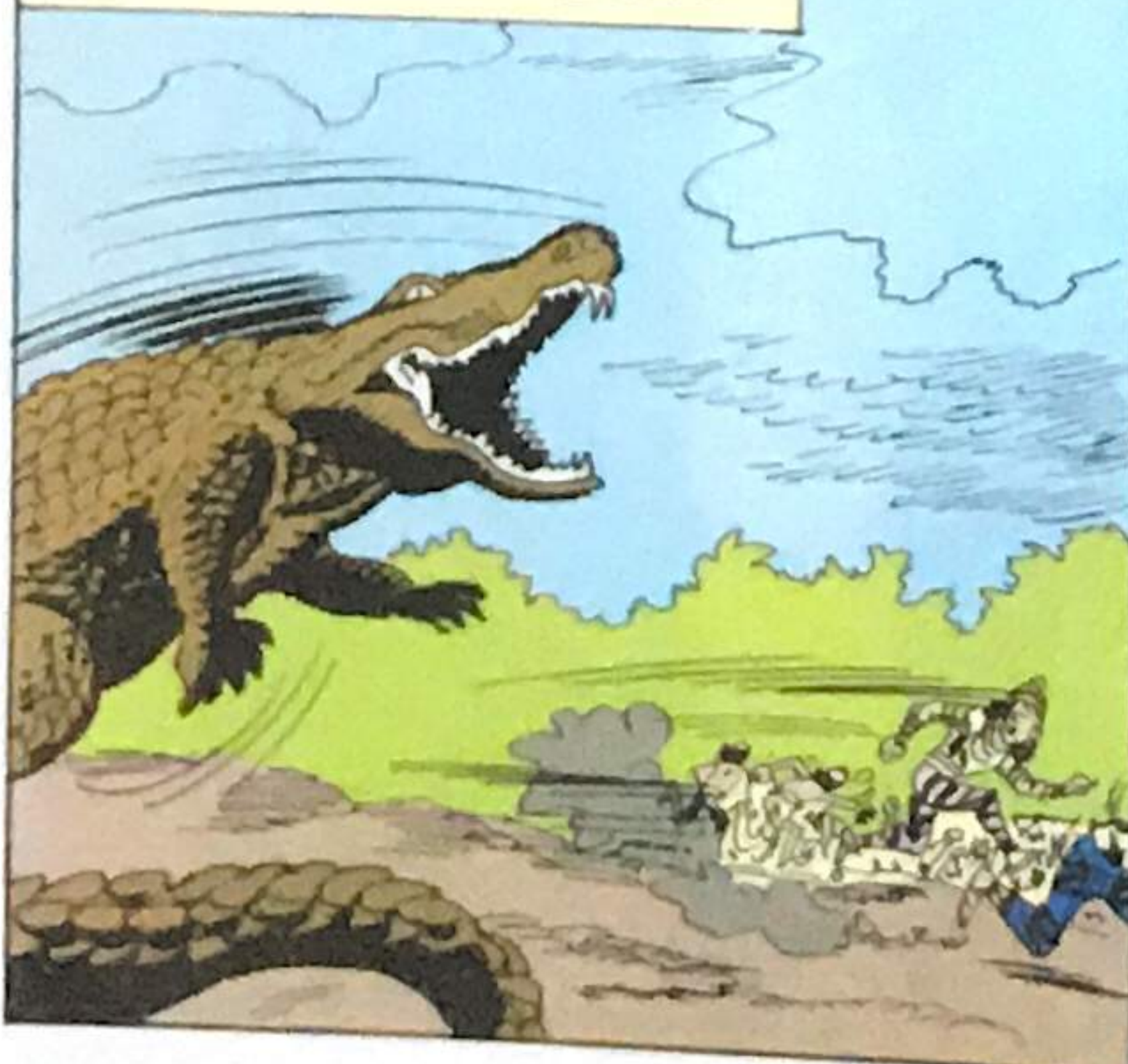
MAYA RAISED HIS HAND AGAIN...



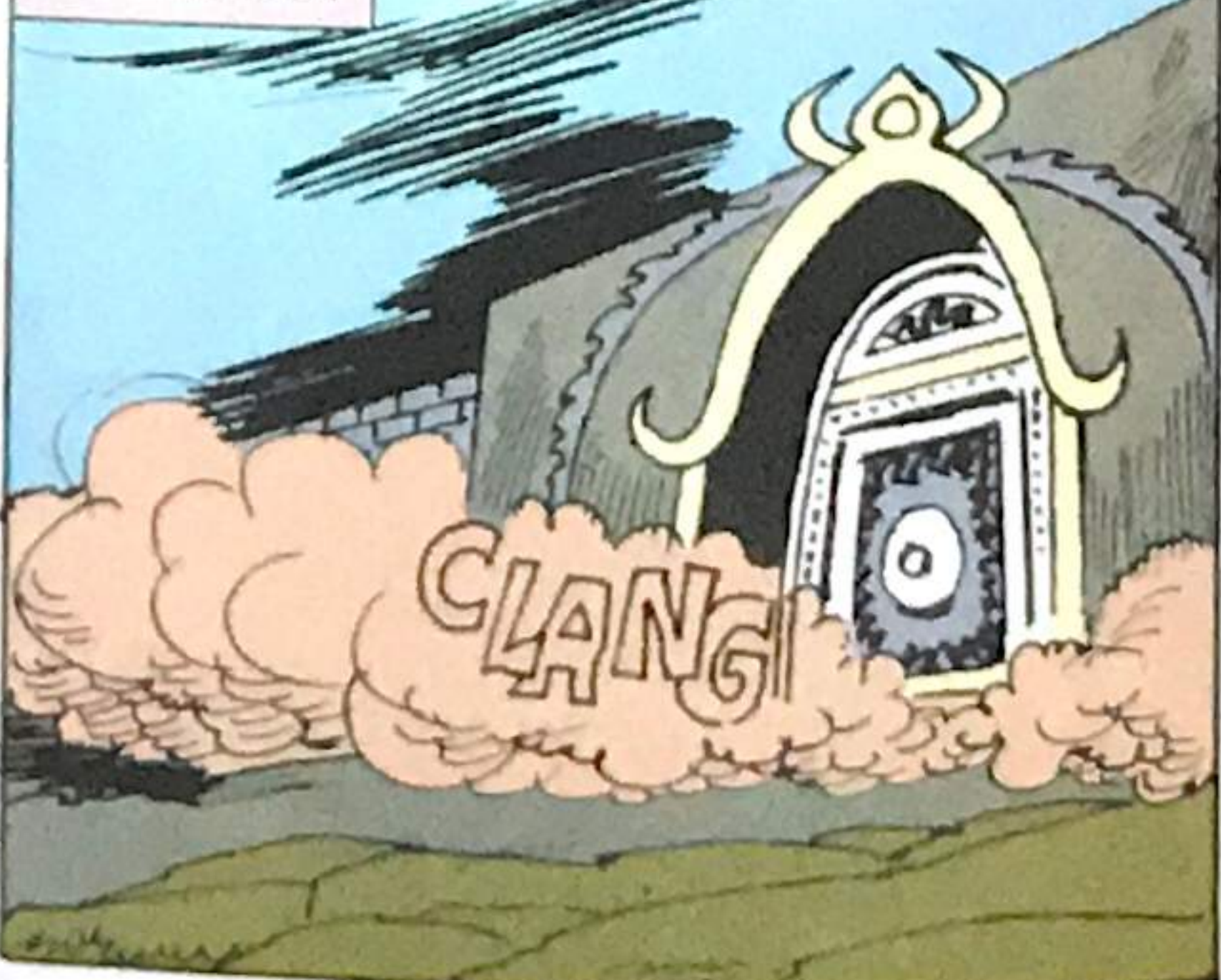
...AND CROCODILES, LIONS, TIGERS AND SHARABHAS RAINED DOWN.



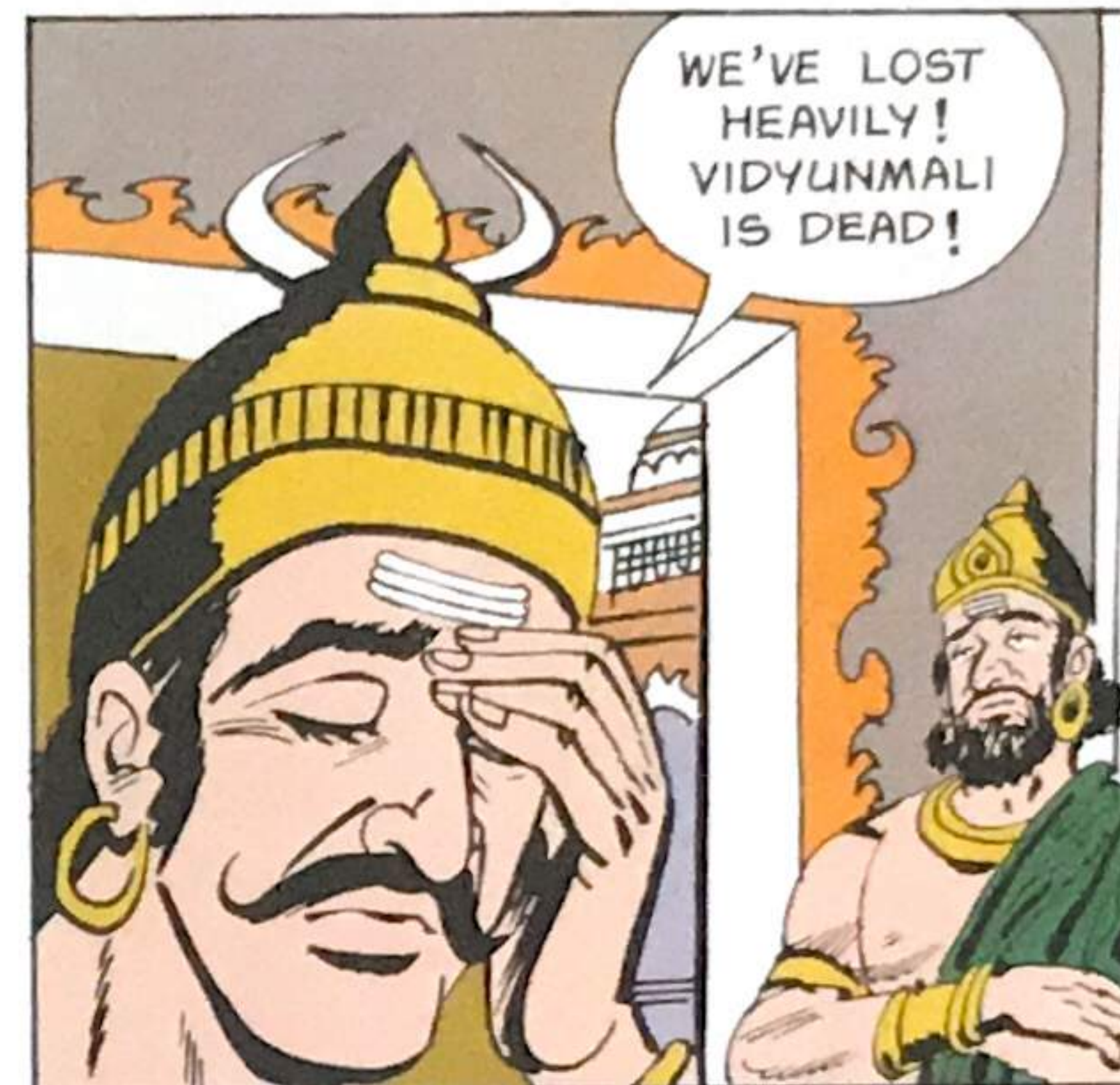
AS THE DEVAS FELL BACK UNDER THE ONSLAUGHT...



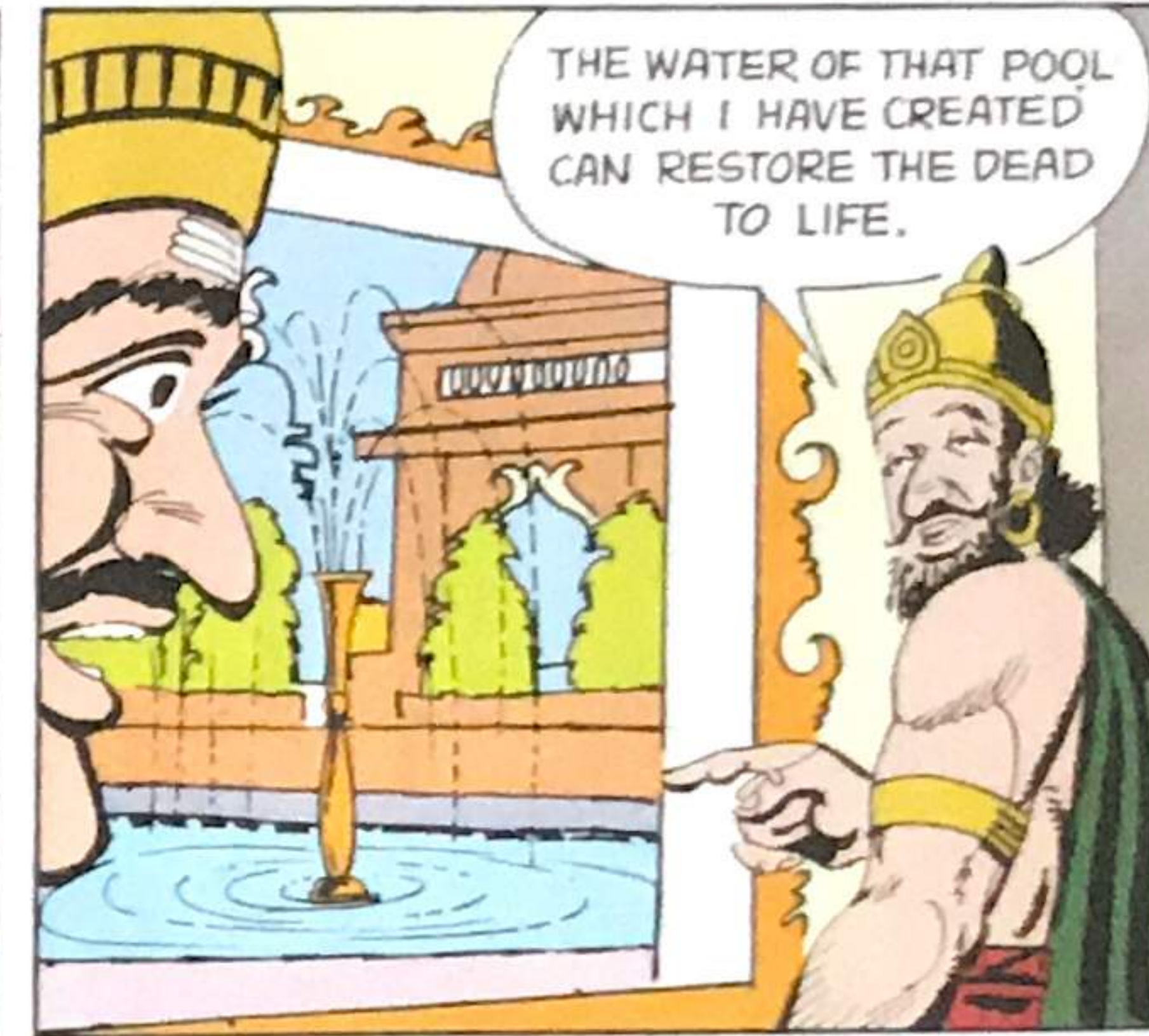
...THE ASURAS HURRIEDLY WITHDREW INTO TRIPURA AND SHUT THE GATES.



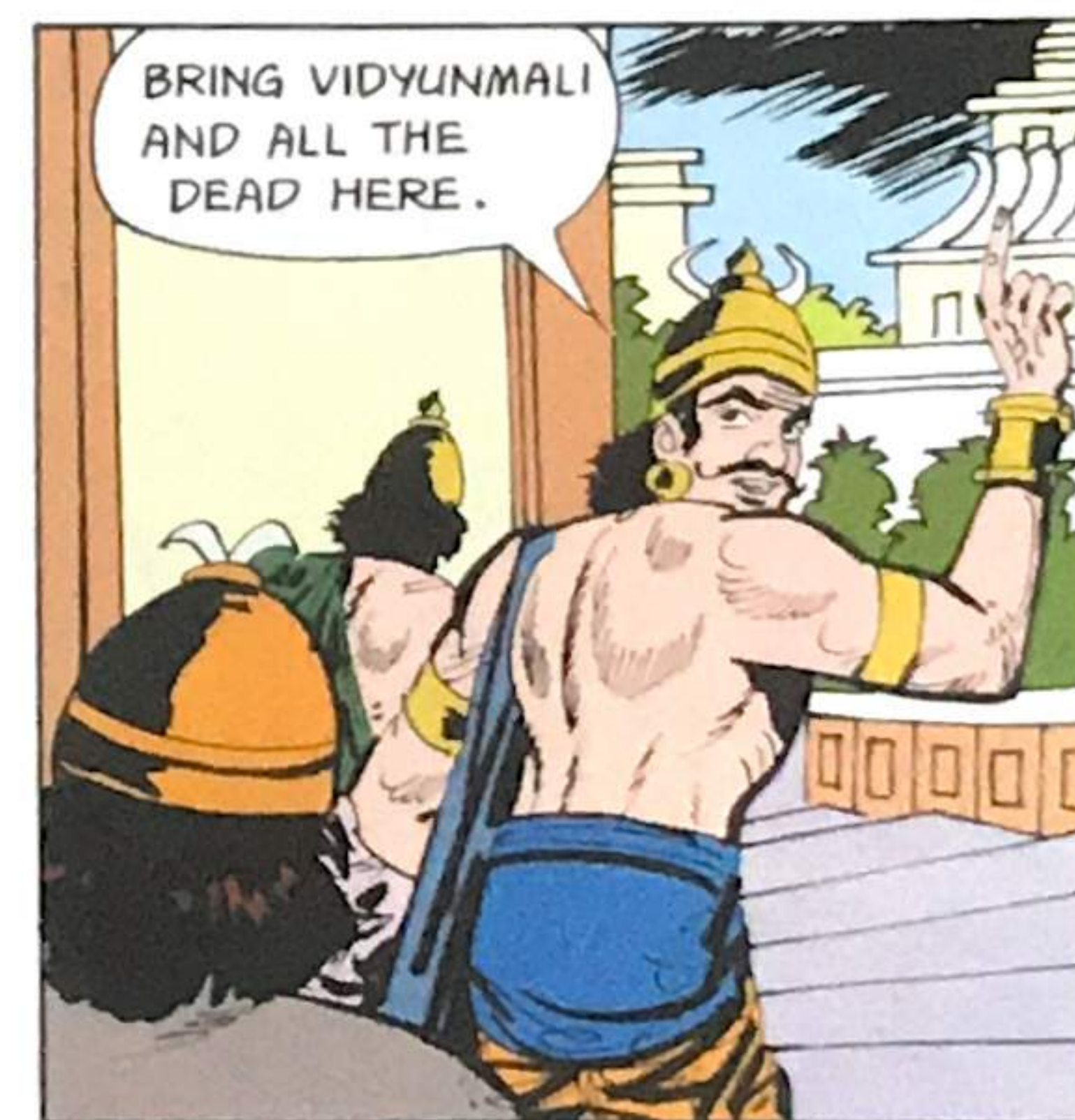
WE'VE LOST HEAVILY! VIDYUNMALI IS DEAD!



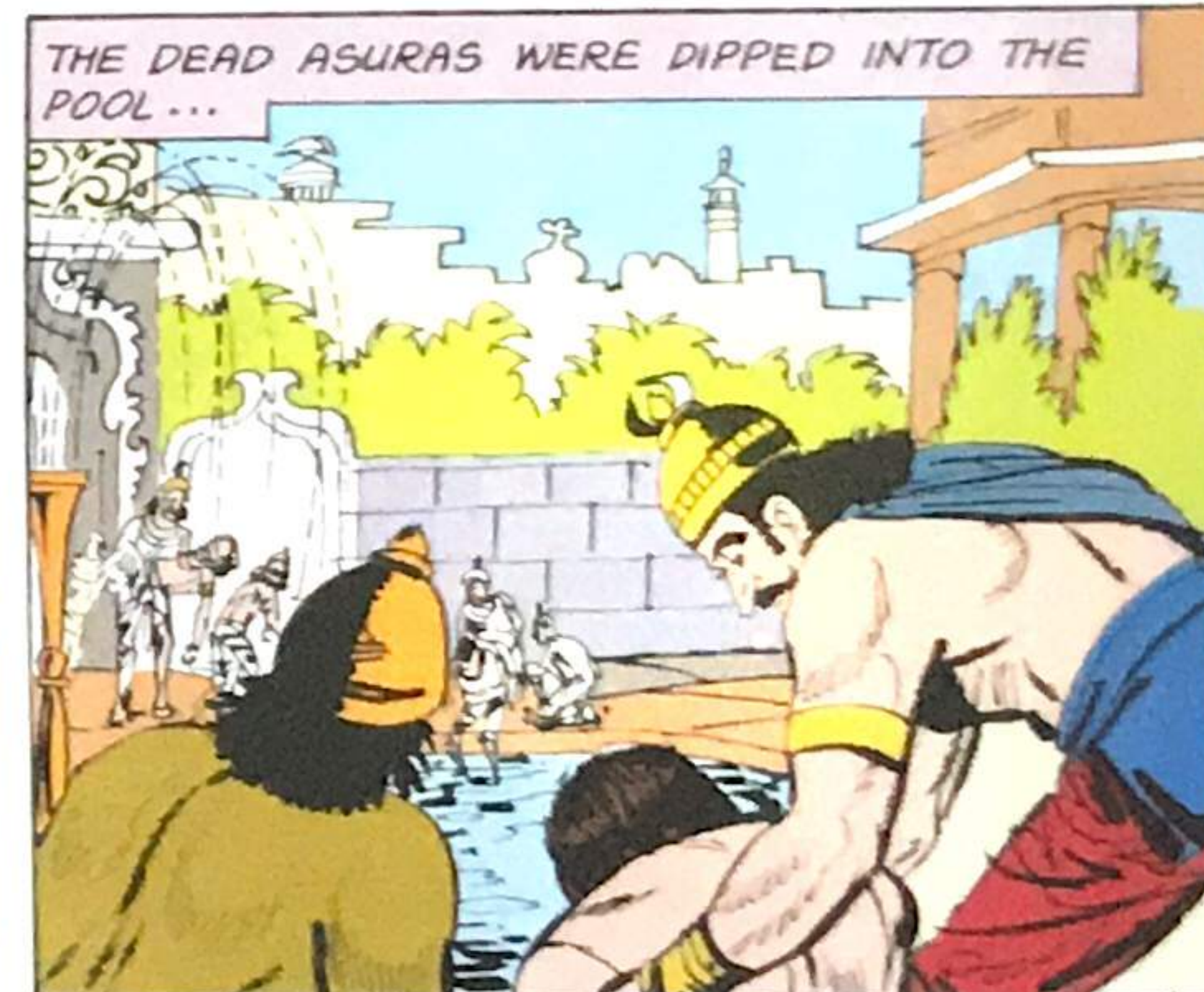
THE WATER OF THAT POOL WHICH I HAVE CREATED CAN RESTORE THE DEAD TO LIFE.



BRING VIDYUNMALI AND ALL THE DEAD HERE.



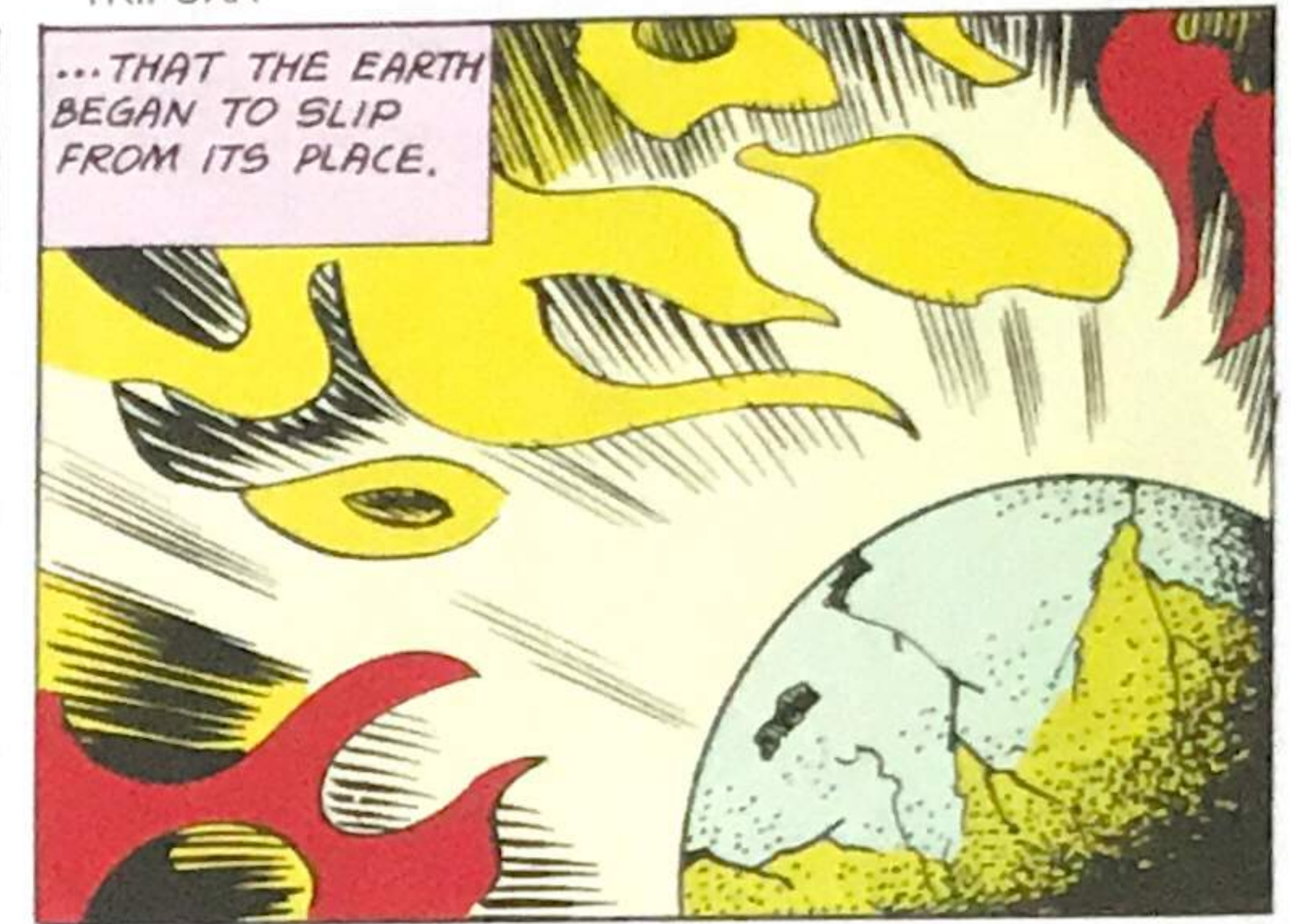
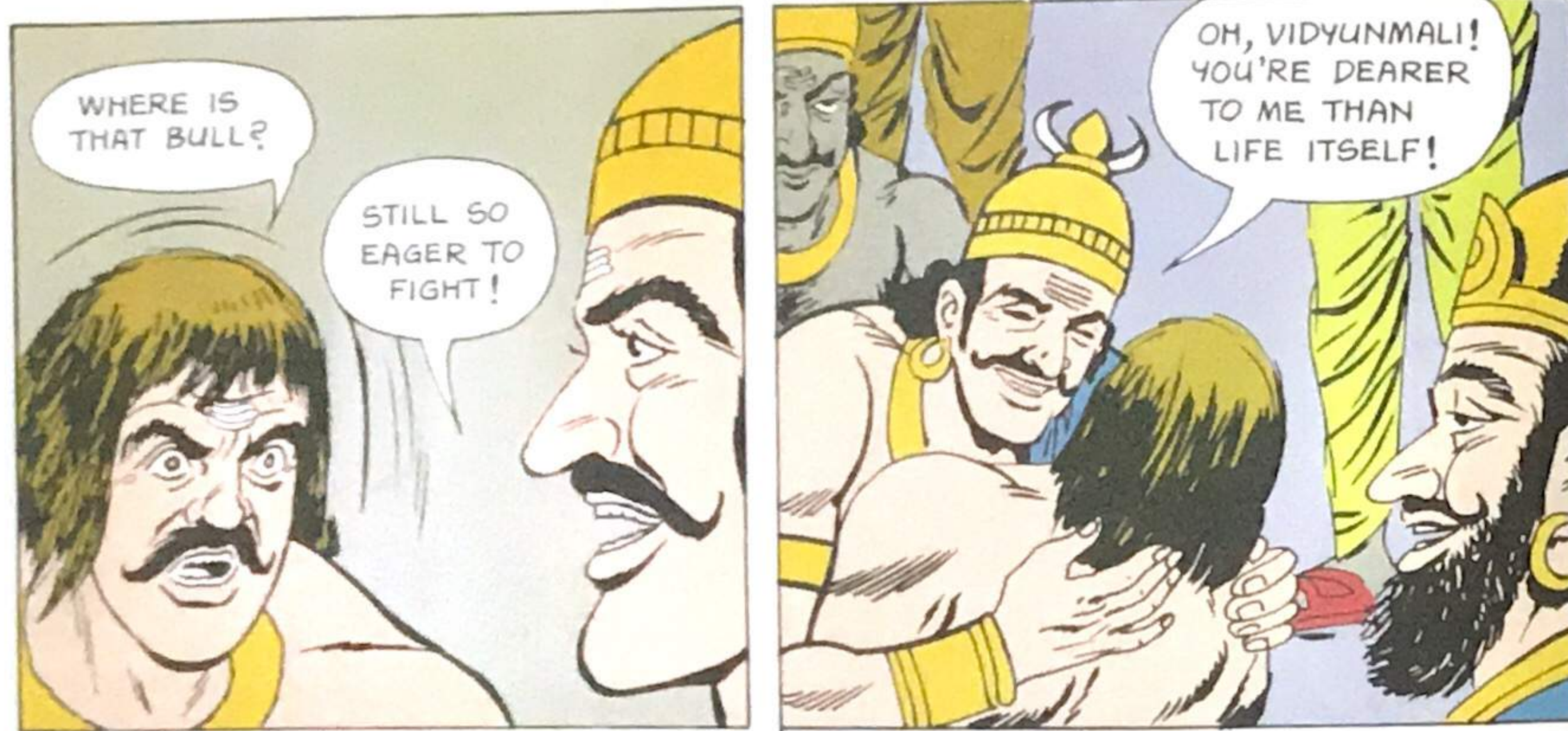
THE DEAD ASURAS WERE DIPPED INTO THE POOL...

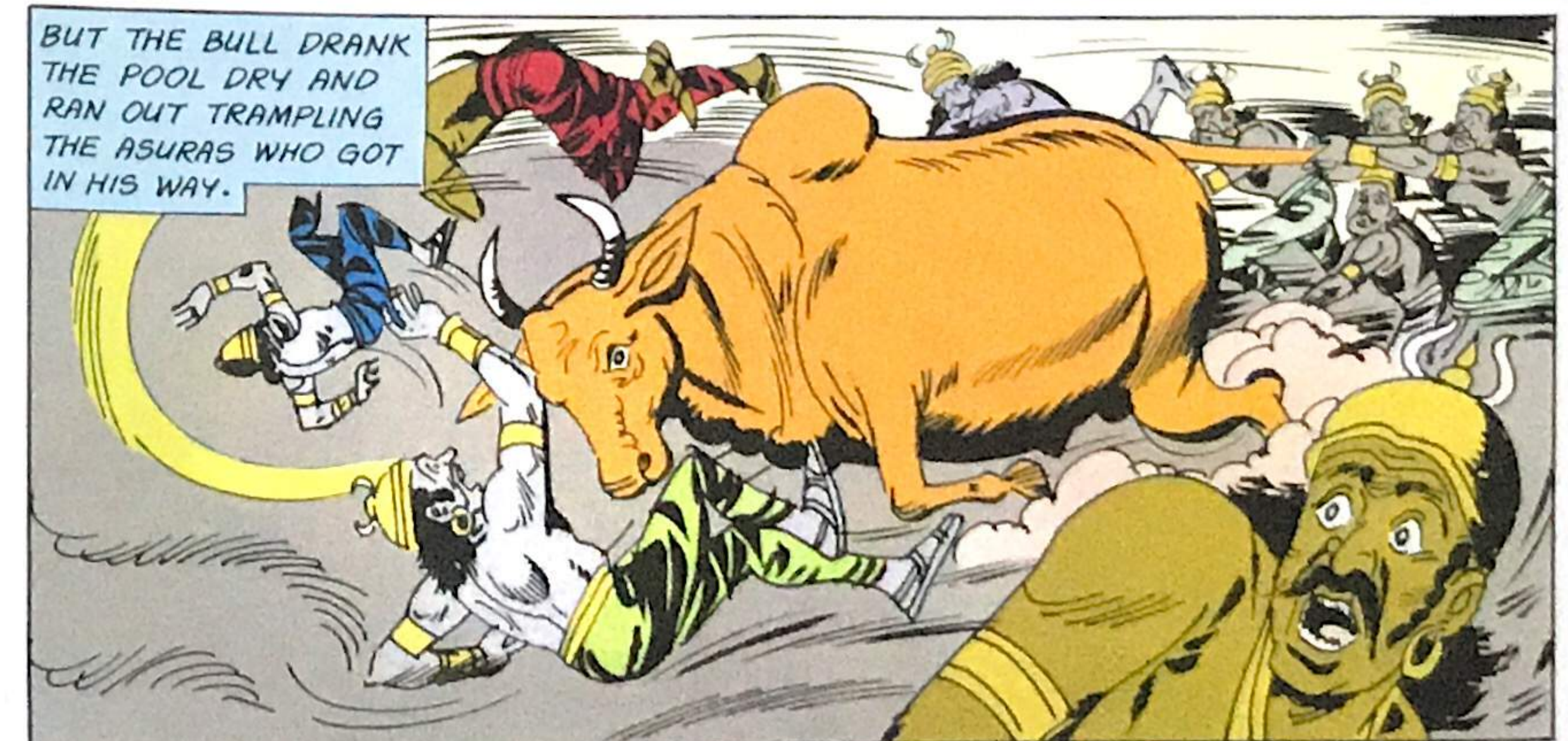
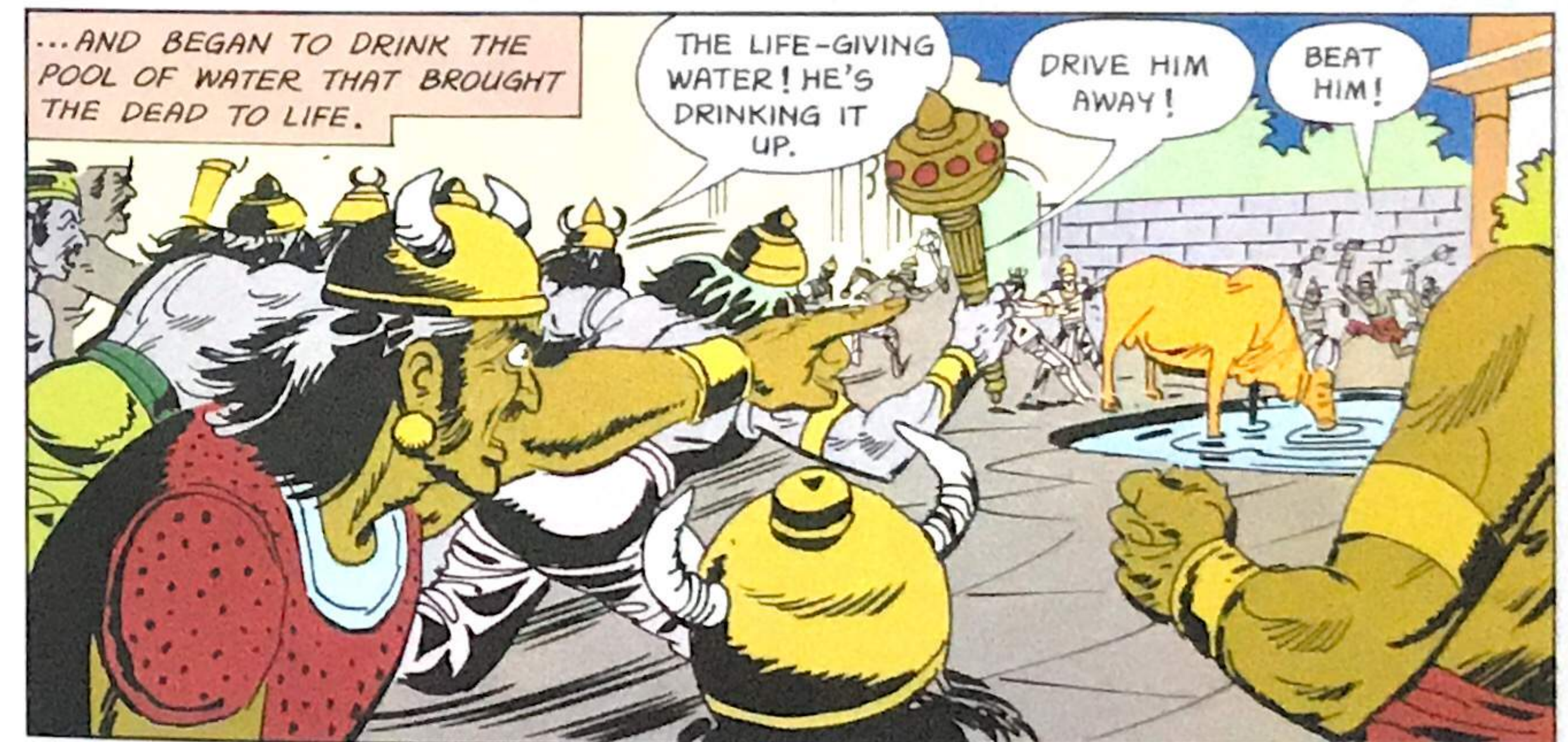
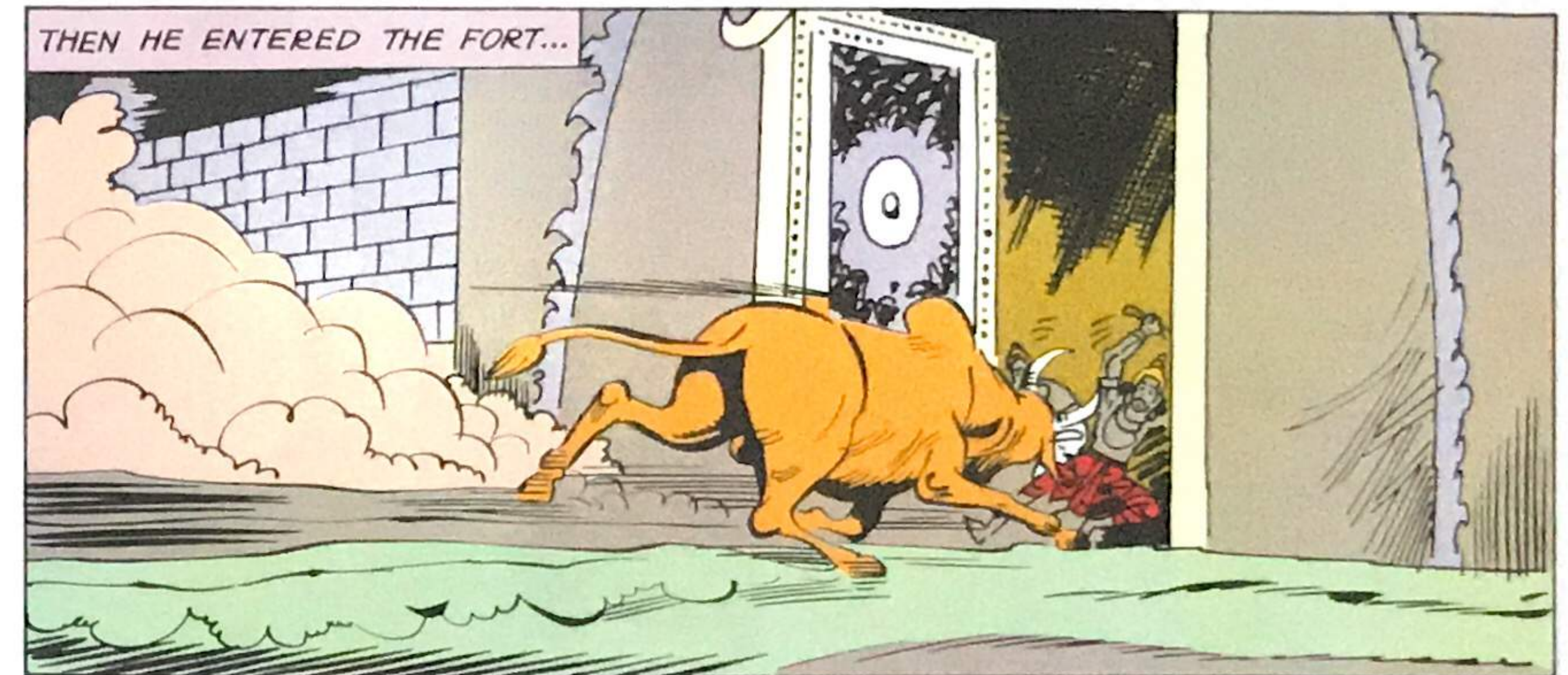
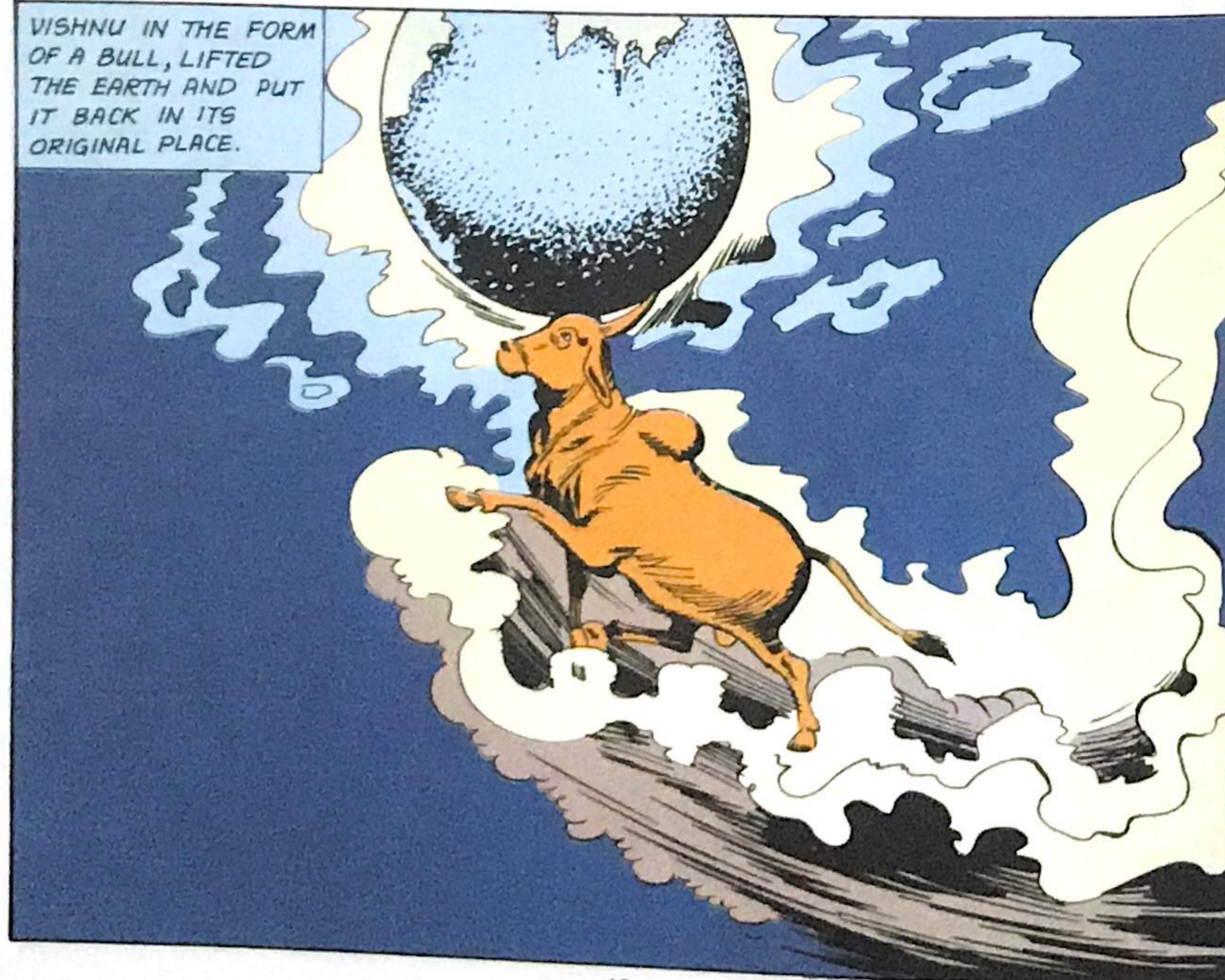


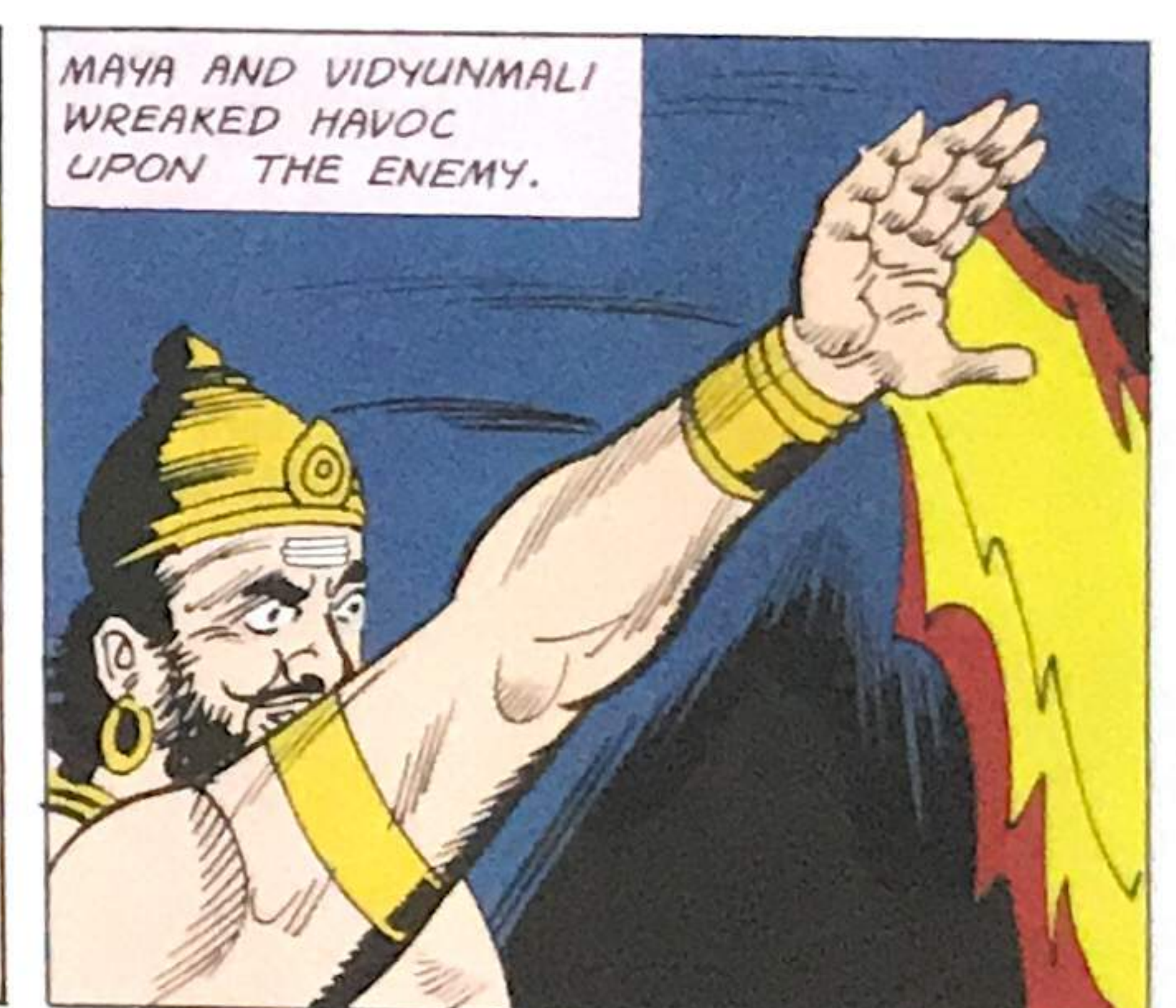
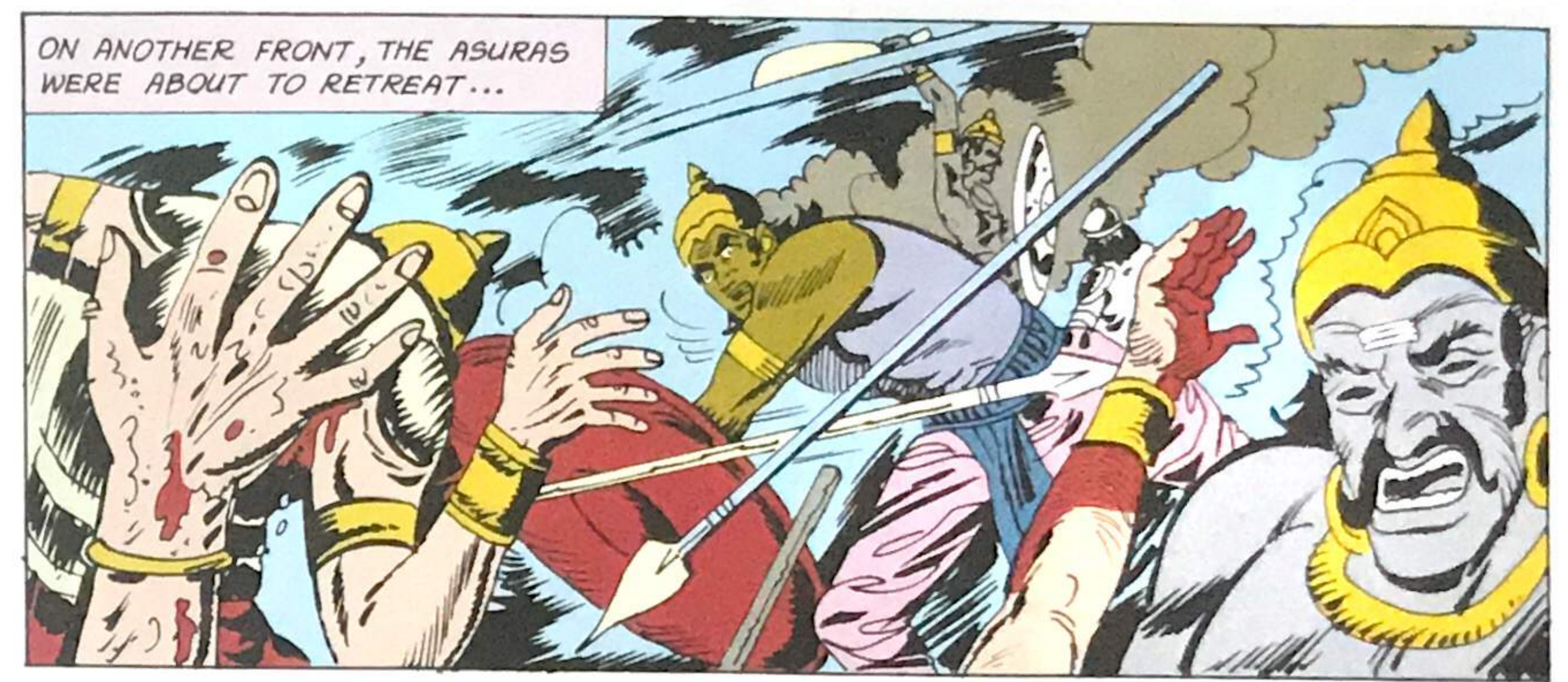
...AND LO!

WHERE AM I?









TOWARDS NIGHTFALL, MAYA LED HIS ASURAS BACK TO TRIPURA.

WE'LL FINISH THE BATTLE TOMORROW.

TOMORROW IS THE DAY OUR THREE CITIES WILL COME TOGETHER FOR A SINGLE MOMENT.

SHIVA HIMSELF WILL ENTER THE BATTLE-FIELD.

IF WE CAN PREVENT HIM FROM SHOOTING HIS FATAL ARROW AT THAT CRUCIAL MOMENT, WE HAVE NOTHING MORE TO FEAR.

THAT NIGHT THERE WAS GREAT REJOICING IN TRIPURA. THE ASURAS FELT CONFIDENT OF VICTORY. ONLY MAYA WAS THOUGHTFUL.

THE END IS NEAR. TRIPURA'S DAYS ARE DRAWING TO A CLOSE.

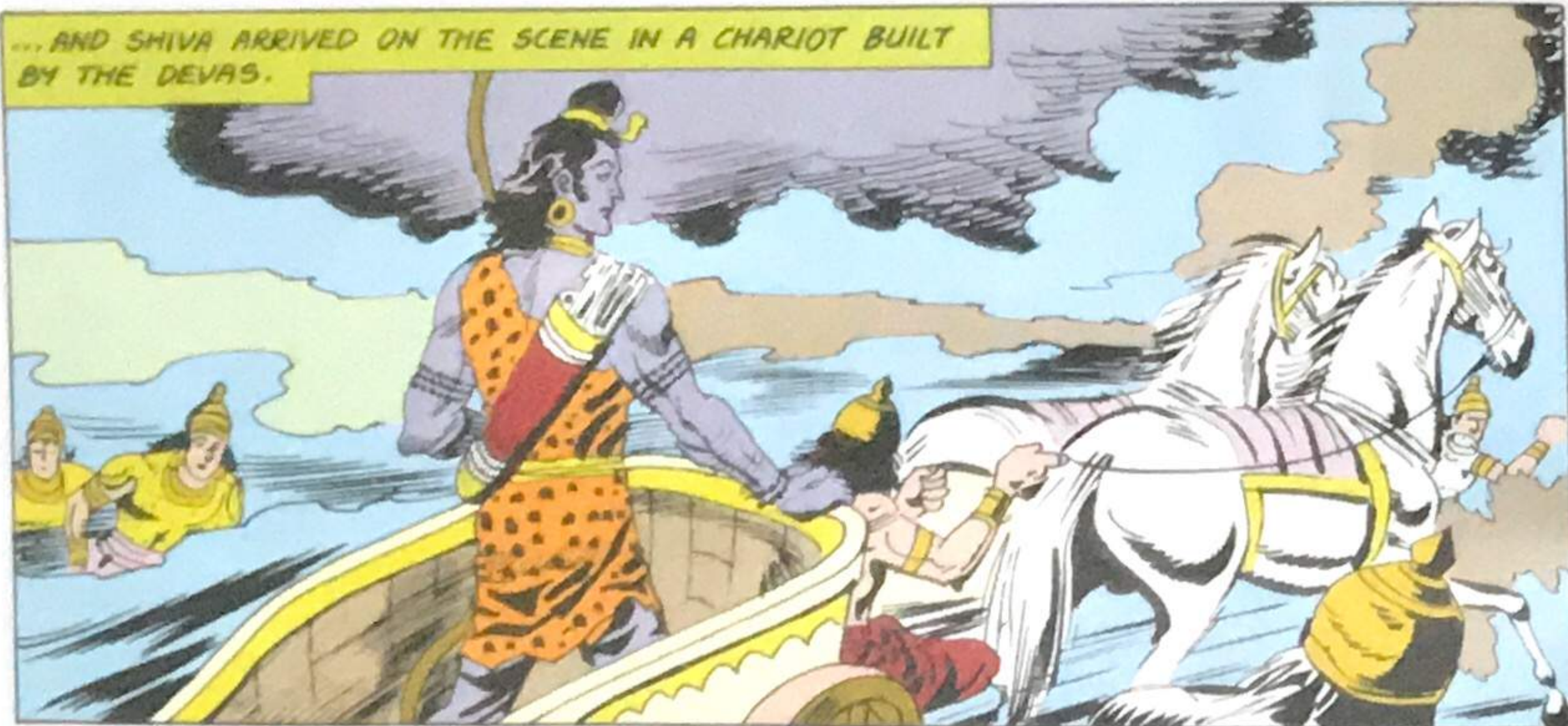
BUT I SHALL FIGHT TO THE END.

AT DAWN BOTH SIDES WERE READY FOR THE FINAL BATTLE.

AS THE SUN ROSE, THE DEVAS PRESSED FORWARD AND THE ASURAS WENT FORTH TO MEET THEM.

AS THE BATTLE RAGED, THE THREE CITIES GRADUALLY BEGAN TO DRAW TOGETHER...

...AND SHIVA ARRIVED ON THE SCENE IN A CHARIOT BUILT BY THE DEVAS.



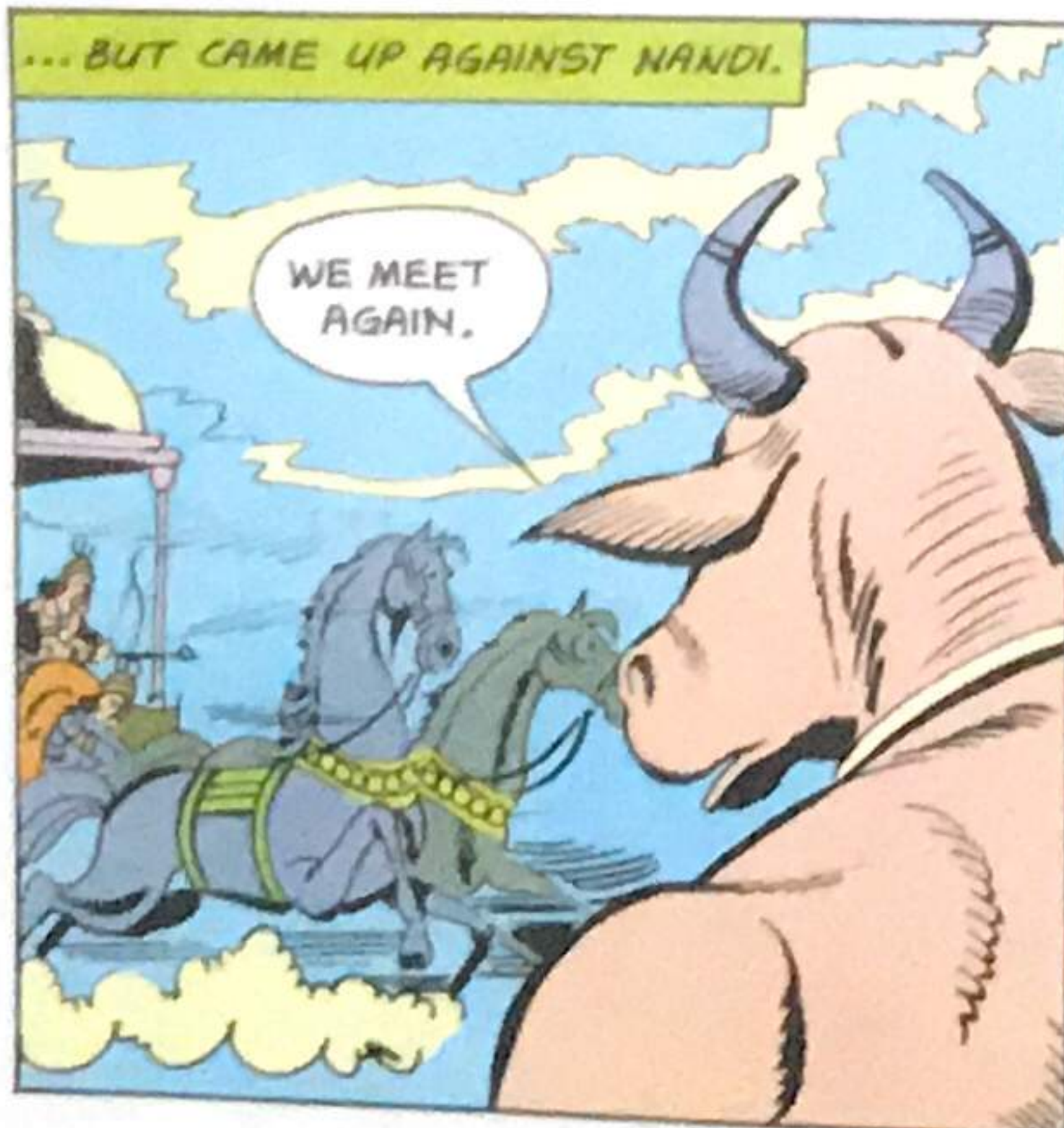
HE STRUNG HIS MIGHTY BOW.



VIDYUNMALI MADE A SUPREME EFFORT TO REACH SHIVA...



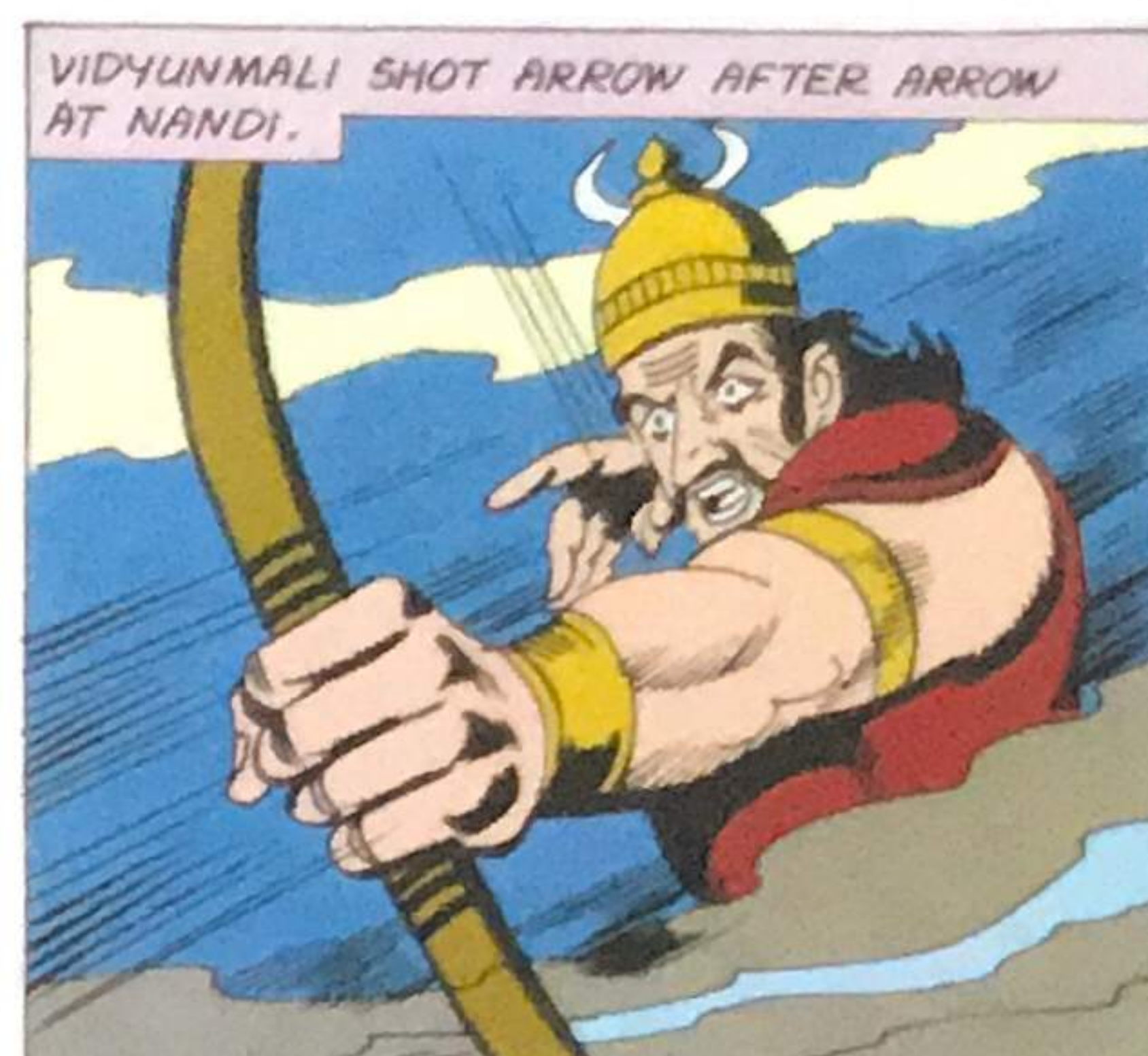
...BUT CAME UP AGAINST NANDI.



PREPARE TO MEET YOUR DEATH!

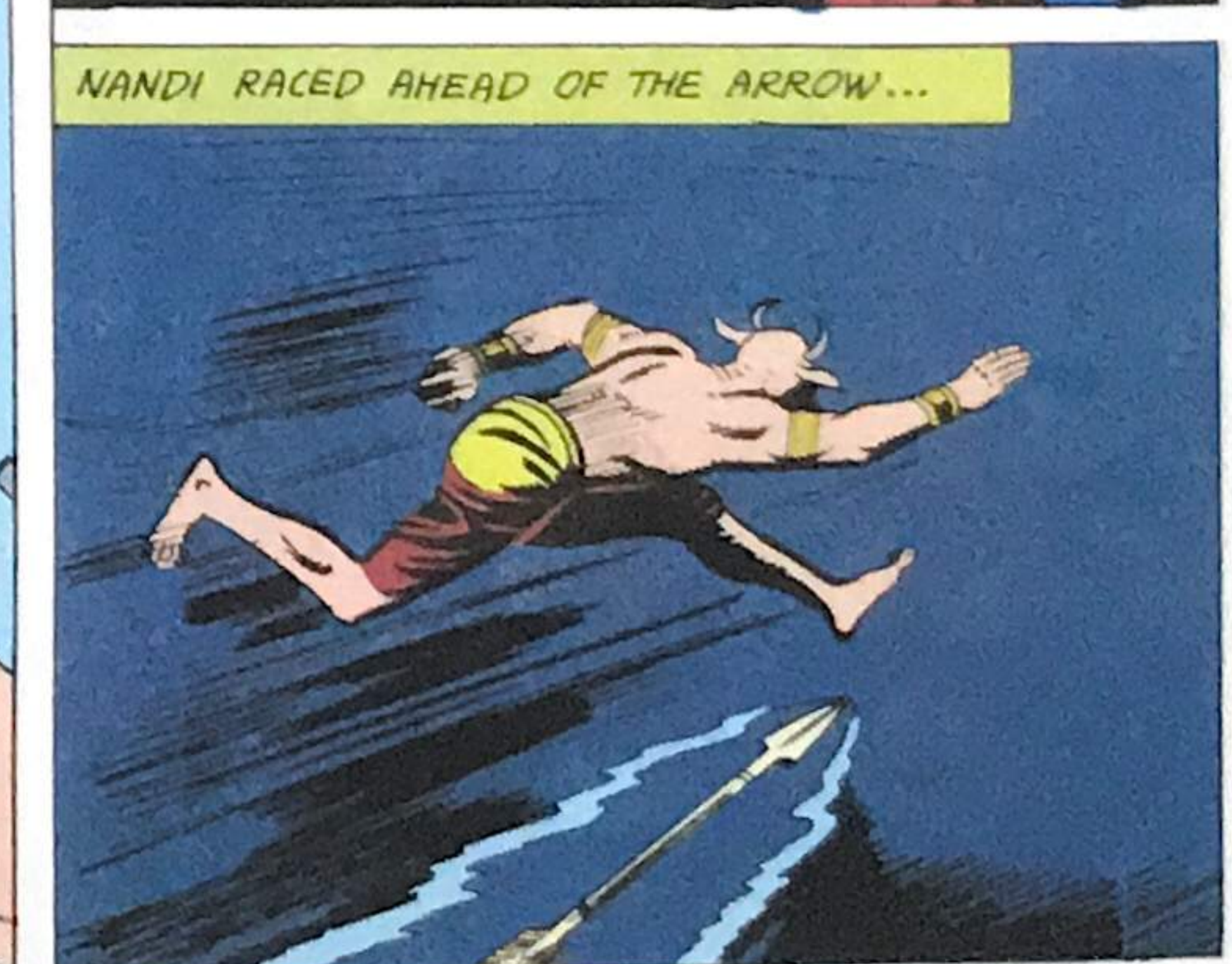
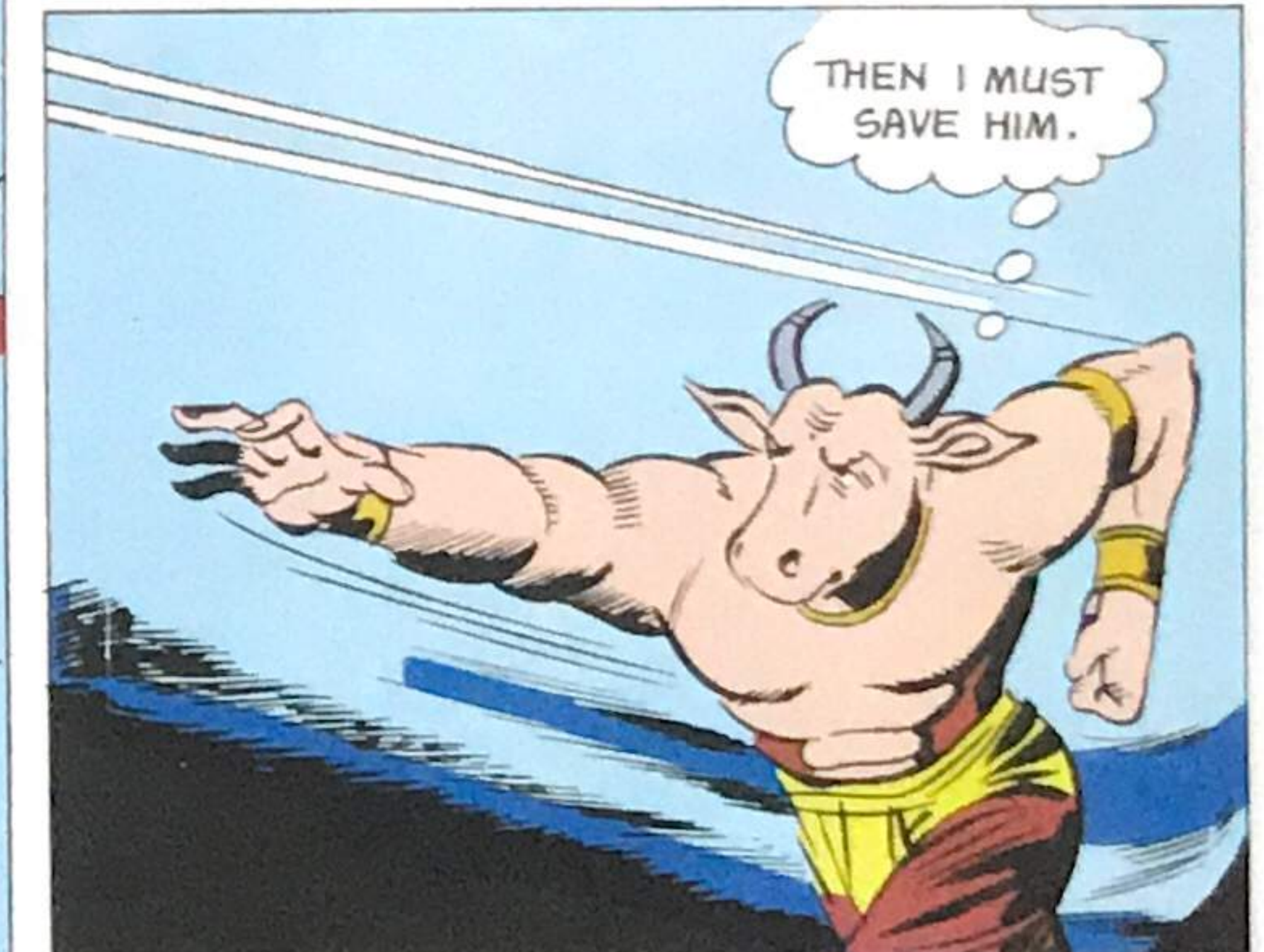
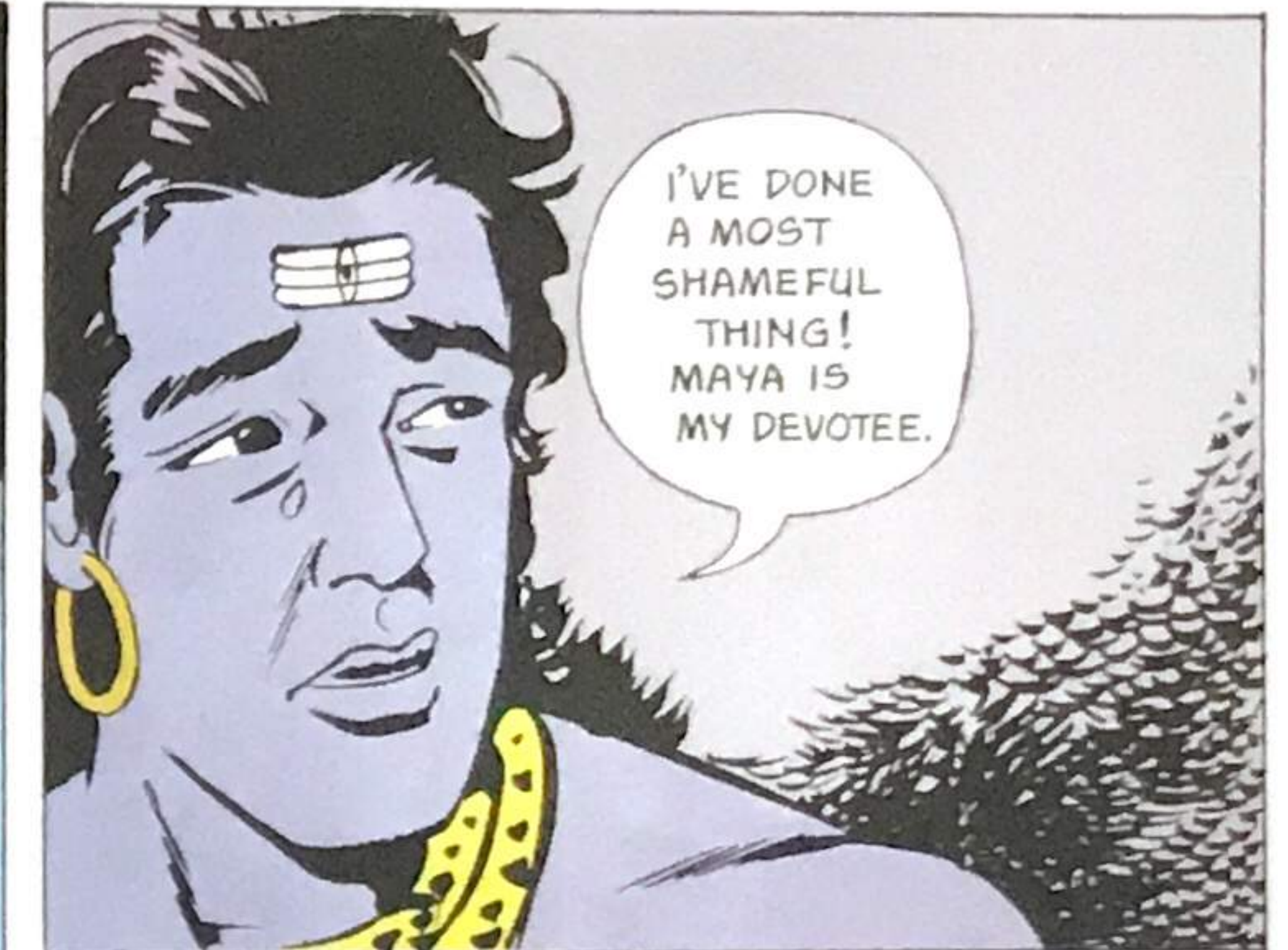
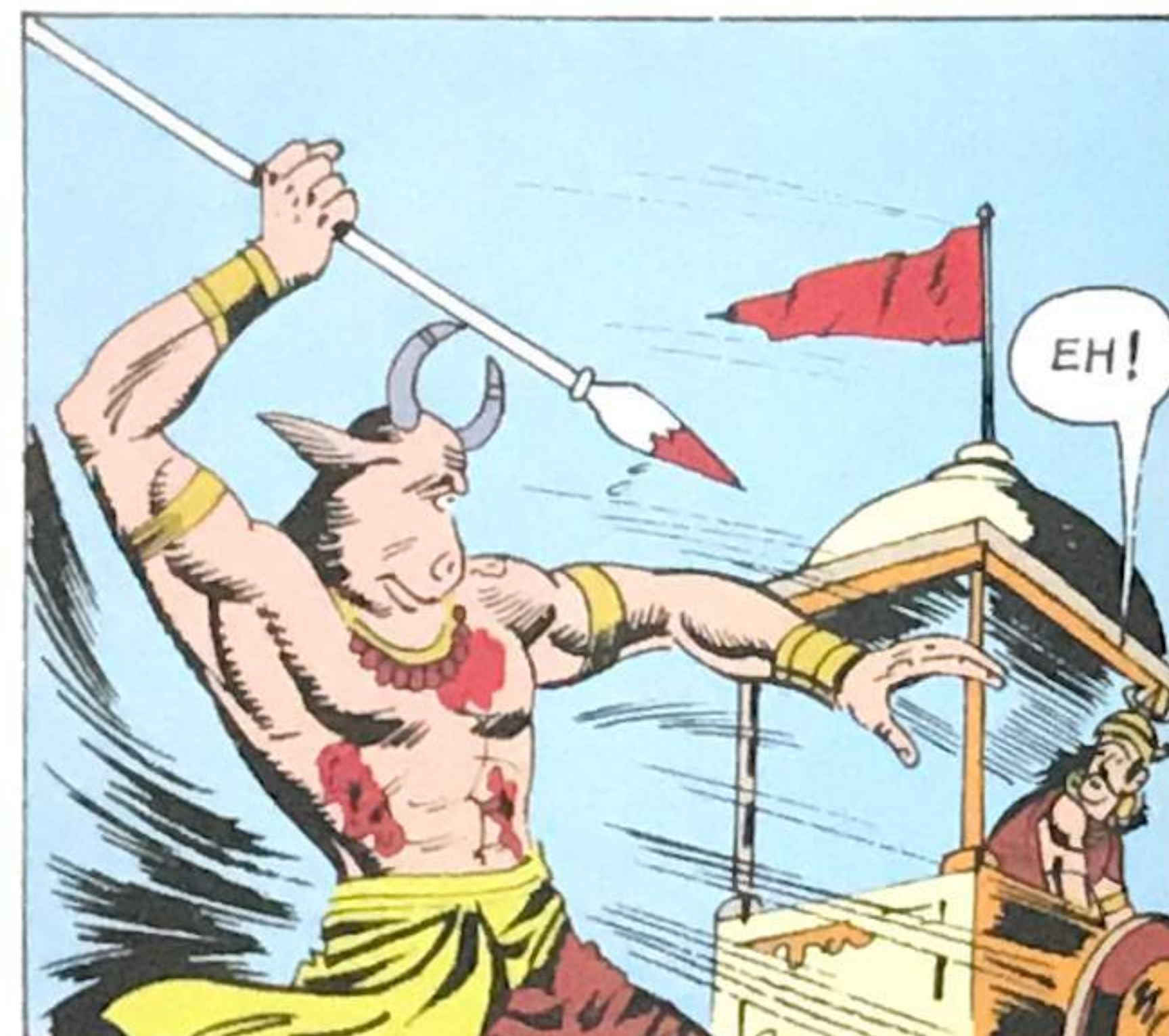


VIDYUNMALI SHOT ARROW AFTER ARROW AT NANDI.



BUT NANDI KEPT ADVANCING.

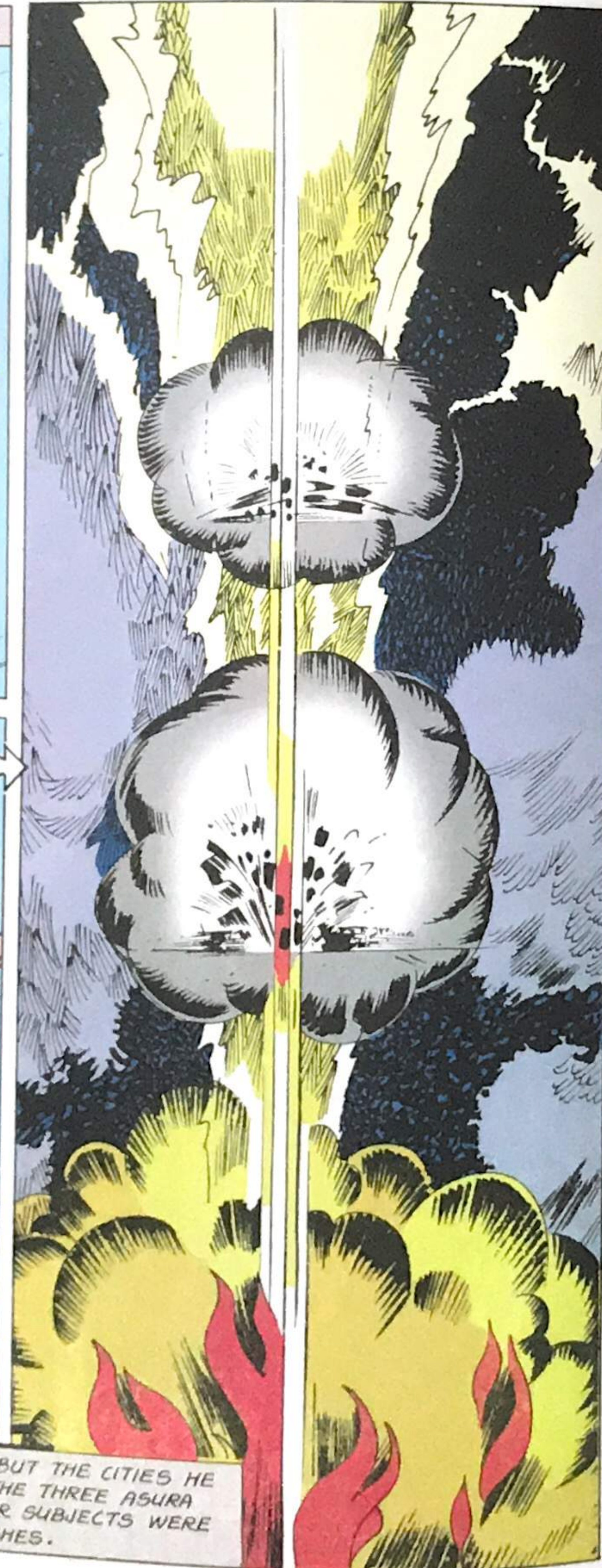




...AND CALLED OUT A WARNING TO MAYA.



MAYA ESCAPED. BUT THE CITIES HE HAD CREATED, THE THREE ASURA KINGS AND THEIR SUBJECTS WERE REDUCED TO ASHES.

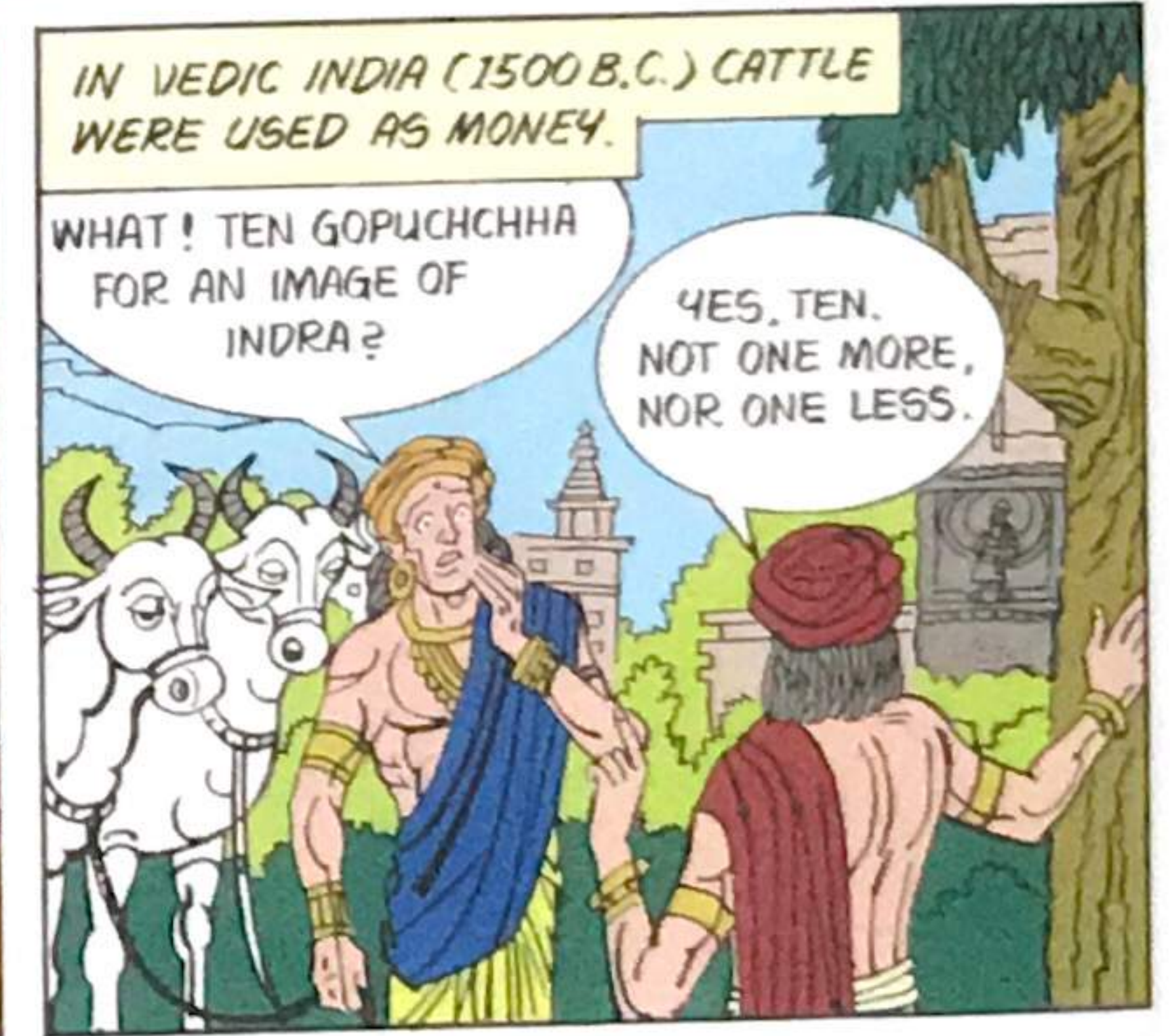
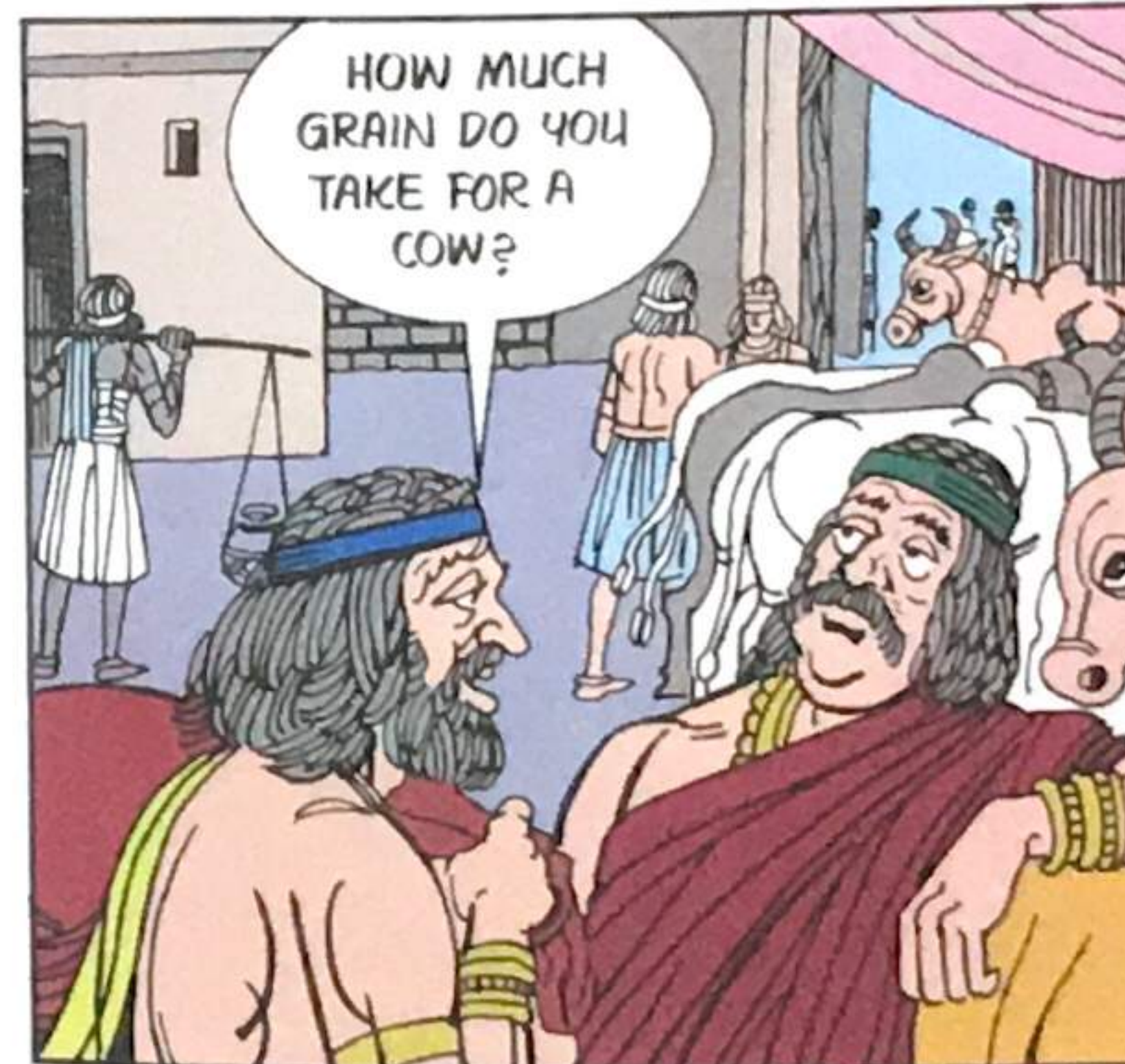
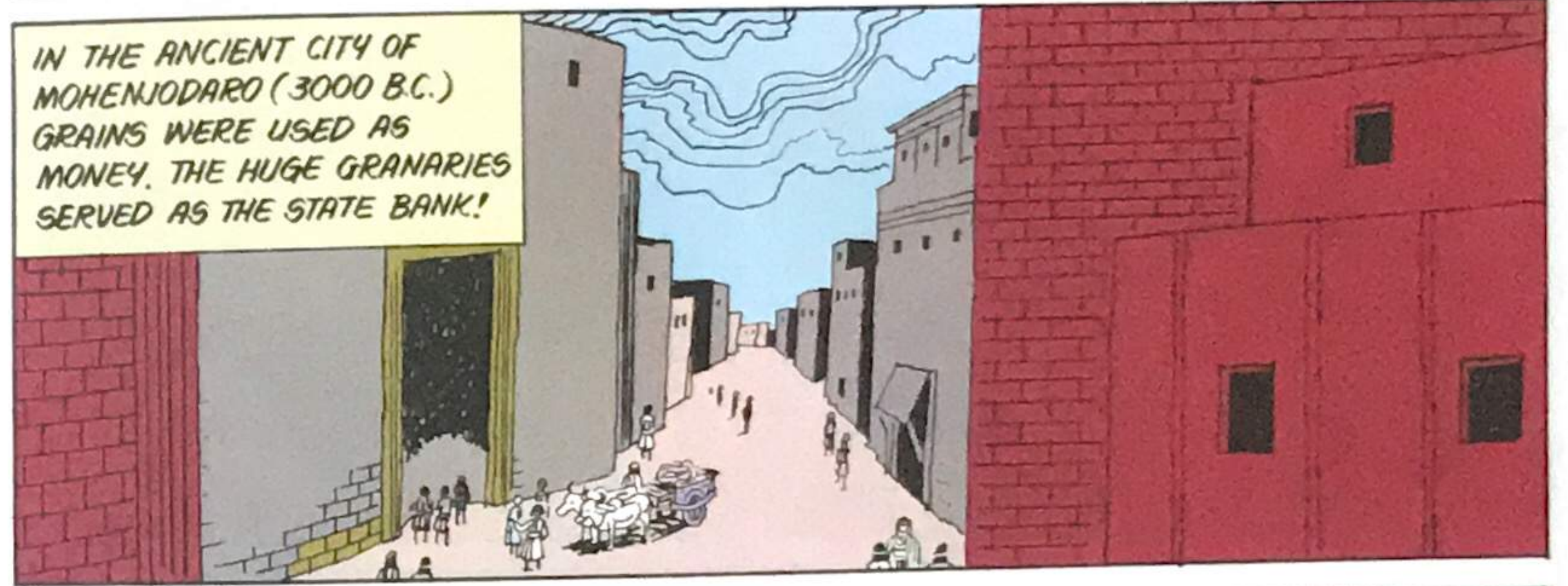


The **INDIA** you do not know

BIRTH OF A COIN

Script: Swarn Khandpur

IN THE ANCIENT CITY OF MOHENJODARO (3000 B.C.) GRAINS WERE USED AS MONEY. THE HUGE GRANARIES SERVED AS THE STATE BANK!



THE MONEY WAS CALLED GOPUCHCHHA (COW'S TAIL), AS THE CATTLE WERE HANDED OVER BY THE TAIL.



BUT SUCH CURRENCY OFTEN POSED PROBLEMS.

